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Mr. & Mrs. Palmer -  
From the Author

St. Francis Grant - Brit.  
June - 1886 -



# The History

OF THE

## Family of Bea.

Formerly of *Pyrland*, in the Parish of Taunton St. James ; of *Oakhampton*, in the Parish of Wiveliscombe ; of the Manor of *Stone*, in the Parish of Brompton Ralph ; of the Parish of *Tolland* ; of *Burliford*, in the Parish of Bishop's Nympton ; of *North Wheelborough*, in the Parish of King's Carswell ; of the Manor and Parish of *Sturminster Marshall* ; of *Yea's Hundred Acres*, in the Parishes of Cannington, Stockland and Huntspill ; with divers other considerable possessions, all situated within the several Counties of Somerset, Devon & Dorset.

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“The citizens of Rome placed the images of their ancestors in the vestibules of their houses ; so that, whenever they went in or out, these venerable bustos met their eyes, and recalled the glorious actions of the dead to fire the living, to excite, to imitate, and even to emulate their great forefathers. The success answered the design. The virtue of one generation was transfused, by the magic of example, into several ; and a spirit of heroism was maintained through many ages of that commonwealth.”—*Bolingbroke*.

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A. J. MONTAGU

Printed and Published by G. VINCENT, TAUNTON.

1885.



I WAS INSTRUCTED  
BY  
SIR FRANCIS GRANT, OF MONYMUSK,  
IN THE COUNTY OF ABERDEEN,  
BARONET,  
TO WRITE A HISTORY TO PERPETUATE THE  
MEMORY OF HIS MATERNAL ANCESTORS,  
THE ANCIENT AND HONOURABLE SOMERSETSHIRE FAMILY OF  
YEA.

*ALFRED JAMES MONDAY,*  
A Member of the Somersetshire Archæological & Natural History Society.





## PREFACE.

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It not unfrequently happens that in the preparation of a book of this nature there is a tendency on the part of the writer, while mindful of the amount of labour and research which he himself has exercised and bestowed in order to bring his work to a successful issue, to forget the generosity, assistance and good-will which others have extended to him, without whose help very little could have been commenced and much less could have been accomplished.

No such ingratitude or lack of duty to others shall be allowed to operate in this instance ; and the writer hastens at once to return his sincere thanks to all who have given valuable suggestions. To The Rev. FREDERICK BROWN, M.A., F.S.A., of Beckenham, Kent—whose skill and learning in elucidating all matters connected with family history generally, and that of Somersetshire especially, stands unrivalled—the writer is deeply obligated for valuable information.

As is frequently the case, important results spring seemingly from what appear at the time to be trivial causes. It is now more than two years since, while but a student in matters of antiquarian research, that the writer of the following History accidentally discovered, while searching among the ancient archives which are to be found in the District Registry of Her Majesty's Court of Probate at Taunton,

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an old and interesting collated Will, which upon close examination proved to be that of a member of the Yea family, of Wiveliscombe in the county of Somerset, dated the 25th day of July, 1548. Being at that time but little accustomed to peruse old documents, its contents were found rather difficult to decipher. The well-known prestige of the family served in no small degree as a spur to perseverance; and to be able to carry the history of the family of Yea for more than a hundred years further back than had been previously successfully attempted, operated at the same time as a pleasure and a novelty. Until this time one had been led to suppose that it was from some part of Dorsetshire that this ancient family—whose very name appeared shrouded in the mysteries of the past—had first originated.

The contents of this Will were of so much interest that from it and another about the same date it was deemed advisable to prepare a Paper, which, on the 22nd of August, 1883, was read at the Annual Meeting of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society, at Wiveliscombe. To the Yea Will, as having been made in the parish of Wiveliscombe three hundred and thirty-five years previously, was especially given more than ordinary prominence; while the quaintness of the language in which it was couched, and the precision with which the testator dealt with the smallest articles of domestic use—which at that period were exceedingly valuable on account of their being made by hand (generally by some one living in the neighbourhood) and with considerably less of that division of labour which is brought to bear upon their production at the present time—caused no small degree of amusement among those to whom such matters were entirely new.

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Shortly after this Meeting inquiries respecting the history and origin of the Yea family were instituted by STEPHEN TUCKER, Esq., Somerset Herald, on behalf of Captain FRANCIS W. GRANT, now

SIR FRANCIS W. GRANT, OF MONYMUSS,

who had endeavoured for several years to get the remaining branches of the Yea family to join him in having a History written of their family. He felt on the death of Miss ELEANORA HECKSTETTER YEA, which took place at Bath, April, 1883, that as the name of Yea had become almost extinct, only now remaining in some of the poorer classes, that the time had arrived when some account ought to be published of the family ; and the result has led to the preparation of the following Work, which has been compiled at his expense, and SIR FRANCIS has the satisfaction of having had the history of the family traced for about three hundred years further back than any of his ancestors had any knowledge of, and has proved them to be one of the oldest families in Somerset.

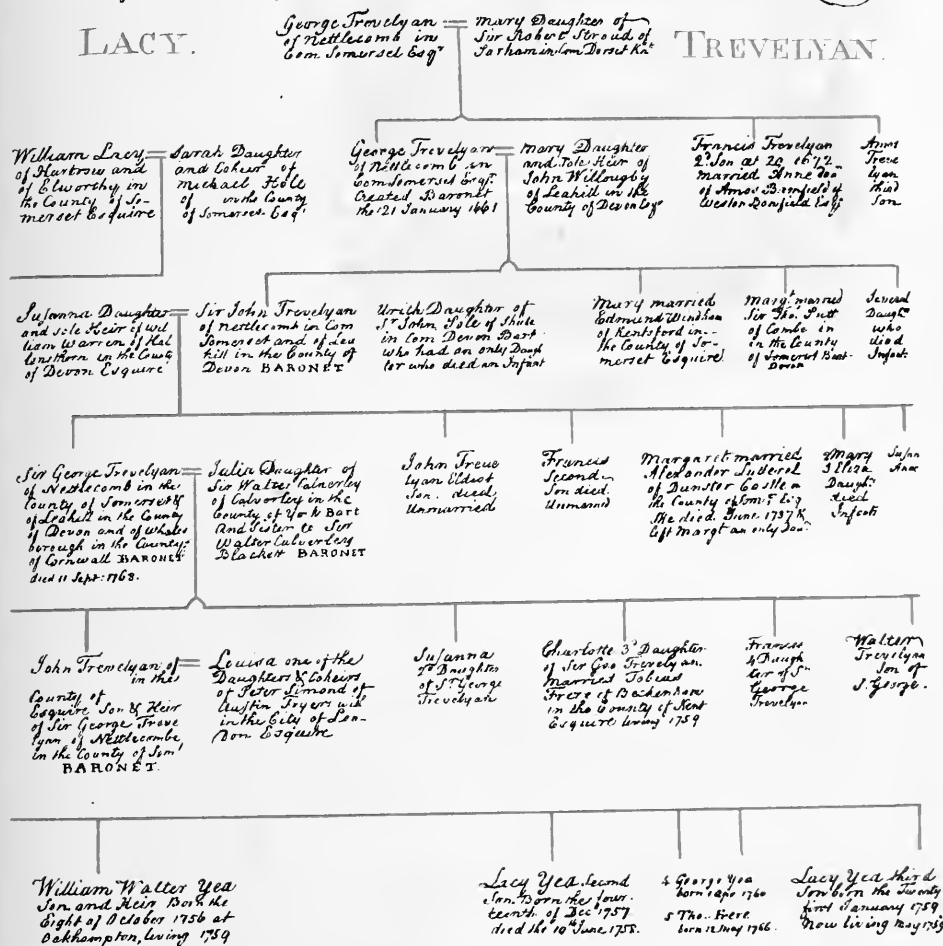
In June, 1883, the late EARL OF SEAFIELD had published a history of the Grant Clan, written by WILLIAM FRASER, Esq., LL.D., Deputy Keeper of the Records of Scotland. This History, in three volumes, known under the title of *The Chiefs of Grant*, is acknowledged to be the best of family histories ever published, and SIR FRANCIS GRANT has now the gratification of possessing a complete history of his mother's family, as well as of his father's family.







PART of the PEDIGREE of the ancient Family of YEAPossessed of sundry Estates in the Counties of Somerset, Devon, and Dorset, &c. particularly of William Yea of Pyrland in the Parish of Taun-  
ton, St. James, in the County of Somerset Esq<sup>r</sup>: Together with part of the Descent of the ancient Trevellyans, Lacy's, & Others, allied by Marriage to the said Family of Yea.



of Taunton St. James in the County of Somerset Esquire Voluntarily maketh Oath That Yea of Brompton Aalath in the same County Esq<sup>r</sup> by Joan his Wife daughter and Heir of same County Esq<sup>r</sup> which David last mentioned was the Son and Heir of David Yea of Oak the same County Esq<sup>r</sup> by Dorothy his Wife the youngest daughter and Coheir of William Lacy which David was Son and Heir of David Yea of Thurminster marsh in the County of Dorset Esq<sup>r</sup> and the Depoent of Brompton Ralph and of Stoke Gursay in the County of Somerset Esq<sup>r</sup>. And the Depoent eldest Daughter of Sir George Trevelyan of Nettlecomb in the County of Somerset Bart by Julia the County of York Baronet and Sister to Sir Walter Calverley Blackett Baronet and by whom he at now living except Lucy his second Son who died an Infant. And this Depoent farther Rans payant Argent And for the Crest a Talbot passant Argent and that the same Arms and seat of his Family and on ancient Escutcheon Seals Plate &c by which it appears that the Family for upwards of Two hundred years past and that the above Pedigree is true in every particular to the

Wm. Yea

Sworn at the Public Office 25<sup>th</sup> May 1759 before J. J. Harris.





# THE HISTORY

OF THE

## FAMILY OF YEA.

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HERE are some surnames which, both with regard to their form of spelling and the traditionary style of their pronunciation, are alone sufficient to prove their antiquity. One of the first which has an especial claim on this account to be admitted within this category is the ancient Somerset surname of Yea. To a stranger to either of the counties of Devon, Dorset, or Somerset, and who had met with this surname for the first time without having heard it properly rendered, the pardonable mistake would in all probability arise of giving it the same sound as the affirmative adverb *yea* as opposed to *nay*. This difficulty would have been all the more appreciated had any reader been present at the Royal Agricultural Society's Meeting at Taunton in the year 1875, and had overheard some ladies and gentlemen (evidently strangers) settling among themselves the proper form of giving expression to this ancient west-country surname. Both the place and the occasion were eminently suitable for deciding a question of this nature, inasmuch as the family of Yea in this county alone

had devoted itself to agriculture for more than four centuries. With regard to the proper pronunciation of this curious surname, which has apparently but little varied in this respect for six hundred and thirty-eight years, the Somersetshire branch of the family has firmly adhered to the ancient and most primitive sound of *Yaw*. This is evidently the most ancient and correct form, because Tristram Risdon, the celebrated Devonshire antiquary, who was born in the year 1580 and who died in the year 1640, writes for the North-Yeo, a small tributary of the river Taw, into which it flows at Barnstaple, North-*Yeaw*; and in quoting a poetical effusion written in its praise finishes thus :—

“Yet Barnstaple, grac’d tho’ thou be by the brackish Taw,

In all thy glory see thou not forget the little *Yeaw*.”

There is no positive proof, however, to show that the surname of Yea is derived from either of the two Devonshire rivulets now known as Yeo, although there is reason for believing that they all originate from the old-English *ea*, which signifies “water” or “an island.” The *Testa de Nevill*, compiled in the reigns of Henry III. and Edward I., informs us that a Nicholas de la Ya held of Lord Reginald de Valletort, in the manor of Holne, which is situated near Buckfastleigh in the county of Devon, the twentieth part of a knight’s fee of the Honour of Totnes; and we also glean from the same record the fact that Galfridus (Geoffrey) de la Ya was at the same time one of the twelve jurors for the Hundred of Stanborough in which this holding was situated, although we are

not informed that he himself held any land in the county. It is worthy of notice that Risdon (*Survey of Devon*, page 152, edition 1811) describes Nicholas de la Ya as Nicholas de la Yeo. From none of the information derived from either of these sources are we able to obtain a satisfactory clue as to the origin of the name. This difficulty is set aside by referring to Mr. Brooking Rowe's *Contributions to a History of the Cistercian Houses of Devon*, who cites several important records from *Brit. Mus. Add. MSS.* 28, 649, concerning the history of Buckfast Abbey. At page 67 we find a copy of a deed dated on the Feast of St. Lambert in the year 1246, which recites a controversy and a "peace and concord" in the King's Court, to which William the Abbot of Buckfast was a party, relating to 24 acres of land in La Dene belonging to William de St. Stephen's Manor of Dene: the witnesses to this deed were Thomas Archdeacon of Totnes, Sir William de Widworthy and Sir Geoffrey de Prideas, *Galfridus de la Ya*, Robert le Peyterin (Poitevin), and others. This Galfridus de la Ya was evidently the person of that name who appears in the *Testa de Nevill* as one of the twelve jurors upon the Inquisition taken of the fees and tenements in the Hundred of Stanborough, in which Hundred the Abbey of Buckfast was situated. At page 68 we find another document, relating apparently to a fine levied in the 53rd year of Henry III. (A.D. 1268), as to common of pasture in the Manor of Brent, to which Henry, Abbot of Buckfast, and Richard Fitz-Alured of Dodworthy were parties, the witnesses being Sir William

Probus, or Prous, John de Niveton, John de Boyville, William de Killbury, William de Chiverston, John de Davayly, *Peter de la Ya*, and many others. A third deed referred to on page 106 of the same work points out the exact situation of La Ya. It is without date, and purports to have been made between The Minorite Brother the Abbot of Buckfast, and Richard de Cotelaforde, being a grant from the Abbot to the said Richard of a ferling of land in *La Ya* in the Manor of Brent, which Robert de la Ya formerly held. The district known as La Ya was probably a portion of the Manor of Brent which had at one time been covered with water; the word 'Ya' being, as already stated, only another form of spelling for the old word *ea* ('water' or 'island'), just as 'La Dene,' referred to in the first document quoted, evidently refers to a district which had formerly been covered with wood.

From this early period until after the Reformation the surname of Yea, with but one or two exceptions—to which reference will subsequently be made—is not to be met with in the county of Devon, probably for the reason that most of the members of that family had not only engaged in quiet agricultural pursuits, but had altered the spelling of their surname to the Norman-French *eau*, or, as they wrote it, *Yeo*. In the reign of Elizabeth we are enabled, through the guidance of wills proved in the diocese of Exeter, to group them into one district. The family during the interval appears to have shifted from the south-west to the north-west of the county of Devon, the three earliest wills to be met with having

all originated from that part of the shire, *viz.*: William Yeaw of Westputford, 1562; John Yea, Bradworthy, 1565; and Alice Yeaw of Holdsworthy, 1580. All of these three places are within the distance of but a few miles of the Manor of *Yeo* or *Yeawe* (now Yeovale), in the parish of Alwington, which was eventually acquired by the Giffords at an early period through the marriage of an heiress of a family of the name of Yeo or Yeawe. There is likewise an interesting will to be found in the District Registry of the Court of Probate at Exeter, in the *Exon Book A.* of collated wills, of a Maud Yea, widow, of Shogbrooke or Shobrooke, near Crediton, dated the 4th of February, 1586, wherein she mentions her daughter Joane and her son Richard YEO. Later on, however, we find that the name of Yea had more closely approached the county of Somerset, and that flourishing branches had been established at the commencement of the 17th and 18th centuries in the parishes of Sampford Peverell, Stoodley and Morebath, all situated not far from the borders of that county (See Appendix A.) And it is worthy of note that among the archives of Exeter Cathedral, in the custody of the Bishop's Registrar, is the record of the institution in Bishop Stafford's time (A.D. 1395—1419) of a John atte Ya to the Rectory of Satterleigh.

Although the Record office has been carefully searched, but one solitary proceeding in equity has been discovered to which any member of the family had been a party; and this is a bill of complaint, filed in the Court of Chancery in the 15th year of the

reign of Elizabeth (A.D. 1572), by Hugh Yeo *alias* Yea, against Robert Pollard, Esq., claiming the right to thirty acres of land called "Lodes Oke," parcel of "Chetelhampton" (Chittlehampton), in the county of Devon, which had been demised by Lewis Pollard, Esq., deceased, to the Plaintiff and to Richard Yea, his father, for their lives. Until recently there were two branches of the Yeas residing at Woodbury and St. Mary Church, in the south of Devon (See Appendix B.)

Before finishing this account of the family of Yea as far as it has been connected with the county of Devon, and especially with the ancient Abbey of Buckfast or Buckfastleigh, it may be as well to consider the social position of this ancient family at the very earliest period in which we find its name first appearing to any document. The fact of the names of two or three members of this family having appeared as witnesses to documents relating to the Abbey lands as early as the beginning of the 14th century, and in one or two instances immediately after those of knights, sufficiently proves that they were at that early period tenants of first rank under the Abbey whose foundation if it does not date back even to the reign of Canute, as the monks alleged, certainly benefitted by the munificence of Ethelward de Pomerei soon after the Norman Conquest.

Having endeavoured to trace the migrations of this ancient race from a district on the confines of Dartmoor, a district which was evidently its cradle, to the north-eastern portion of the county of

Devon, we will now cross the border at the parish of Morebath, and enter the county of Somerset. After a journey of about eight miles we arrive at that which was formerly the episcopal Manor of Wiveliscombe, of which Lord Ashburton is now the lord. The parish, which includes a market town containing the largest brewery in the West of England, has an area of 5984 acres, with a population of 2612. Very little is known of the early history of this interesting Manor beyond that furnished by Domesday and the Gheld Inquest of Somerset taken two years previously. From an able exposition of the contents of this latter document, given by E. Green, Esq., at the annual meeting of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society for 1883, which was held at Wiveliscombe, we learn that in the year 1084 there was one mill in Wiveliscombe at a rental of fifty pence; that the value of the whole Manor (estimated to have contained 4634 acres, exclusive of Fitzhead) was £10; and that there was arable sufficient for thirty-six ploughs. The land liable to land-tax was taken at twelve hides, of which three were held by the Bishop himself, and the remaining nine by three of his knights. From the same authority we learn that very little is recorded of the early history of the Manor of Wiveliscombe, with the exception of a grant of free-warren to the Bishop in his lordships of Wiveliscombe and Lydeard in the year 1256, and a charter granting the right of holding a weekly market for one day, and a fair every year for three days on "the vigil, the day, and the morrow of the Trinity," until the year 1452. Among

the *Bodleian Charters* (No. 15), Mr. Green informs us, is to be found a Court Roll of the Manor, being an account from Michaelmas, 30 Henry VI. to Michaelmas, 31 Henry VI., and among the tenants named as holding arable is John Yaa.

From this date until the reign of Henry VII. very little documentary evidence has been discovered to enable us to throw any further light upon the history of this family. About the beginning of the reign of this last-named monarch we are informed, through the means of the Rev. Herbert Edward Reynolds' valuable work upon the Records of Wells Cathedral, that a John Atya or Atyaa, a priest, was connected with the Cathedral at Wells; but upon referring to Appendix M. (page 201) we obtain more important information, *viz.*, that upon the 19th of November, 1500, the Chapter granted to Richard Atya, and.....his wife, the reversion of the Manor of Okyngton, in Wiveliscombe, for life, immediately after the death of Elena, relict of John Sidenham, for £20, &c. &c. This manor of Okyngton, or as it is more correctly written, Oakhampton, is situated in the parish of Wiveliscombe, and was accounted the fourth part of a knight's fee, the tenant being compelled by custom to attend annually at the Court Leet with a horn slung over his shoulder and a hound in a leash, to signify that he was ready to attend his chief lord in his hunting excursions. Its tenants subsequently held as lessees for lives under the Dean and Chapter of Wells, when the personal service appears to have been commuted to a 'head' or 'chief' rent.



It may be here mentioned that it continued leasehold property down to the year 1870, when it was enfranchised by Henry Bellew, Esq., the present owner and occupier. The fee simple previously to that time remained vested in the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

The most valuable connecting link, however, in the history of the family at this early period, and which throws more light upon it than any previous document, is the will of a Richard Yea, described as of the parish of Wiveliscombe "in the dioces of Bath and Welles," dated the 25th day of July, 1548. (See Appendix C.) His rank and condition in life are not given, it being rather general not to do so in wills at this early period; but the bequest of his "bodie to be bueried in the church of Wyviliscombe aforesaide" sufficiently proves him to have been a man of good local rank and position, it being the custom about this date for none but country gentlemen and merchants in cities and towns to select their last resting-place within the church. For this sepulchral honour, if it may be so termed, he was in position to give half-a-mark (6s.8d.), now equal to £6 13s. 4d.—ostensibly to the reparation of the church—as a mortuary fee. Four children or grandchildren are named by him in his will, *viz.*, two sons or grandsons, John and David; a daughter or granddaughter, Radigond; and likewise a daughter, evidently by a former marriage, called Johane Collard. Of the first three children named by Richard Yea, John was probably the eldest, his name appearing at the commencement of the will before

those of his brother and sister. Although the testator bequeathes to his wife, Alice Yae (as the surname appears written in this portion of the will), the sum of £13 6s. 8d., equivalent to £266 13s. 4d. at the present time, and likewise gives back to her all her trousseau, consisting of "all the bedding which was left, and all her apparel, napery, beads, girdles, and taches, which she brought from Whitfield," a tithing in the same parish, yet we are unable to obtain the slightest clue either to her maiden name or family. The provision made by Richard Yea for his wife's dower, to the extent of twenty shillings a year, to be paid by his heirs who might enjoy his free lands, gives rise to one or two speculative suggestions. The yearly value of land at this period is generally acknowledged to have been one shilling per acre, and as a woman's right to her dower extended to one-third of the rents and profits of her deceased husband's freehold estate for life, this data may enable us to fix the area of Richard Yea's freehold estate at sixty acres. These sixty acres, making due allowance for subsequent enclosures from time to time from surrounding commons, there can be but little doubt formed the nucleus of a farm still known as Yea's, situated in the same parish, and which from its elevated situation might possibly have been the arable land held by John Yaa in the year 1452. The three children or grandchildren—John, David, and Radigond—were, there is every reason for believing, under age, because their father or grandfather was desirous that they should be ordered, ruled, governed, and married by the advice and counsel of a certain person called David

Slocombe, and his (the testator's) overseers. This David Slocombe was possibly a member of the ancient family of Slocombe formerly residing within the parish of Sampford-Brett. The Parish Register of Wiveliscombe commences a little more than ten years after the date of this will, but neither among the marriages nor the burials is the name of Radigond Yea to be found. It is probable that she died during the interval. The name of Radigond, which was apparently very popular about that time as a baptismal name for female children, was adopted from Radegonda or Radégonde, the queen of Clothaire (one of the early French kings). From the testator, Richard Yea, giving a sum of money to Alice, his wife, "to be good to the poor children before named," John, David, and Radigond; and, moreover, his willing that David Slocombe, and Alice, his wife, should have the keeping of John and David Yae until they should be of sufficient age, almost amounts to conclusive proof that they were either the issue of a former marriage, or, from the fact of his referring to them so commiseratingly, that they were orphan grandchildren. Be this as it may, it can safely be assumed that they were his lineal descendants. But the most interesting portion of the will of Richard Yea, is the clause by which he directs his executors, David Slocombe, and Alice, his wife, to deliver "unto David Yea or to John Yea when they or any of them should chance to enter into the farme of Okehampton," all his "plough stuff," &c. This naturally gives rise to the very interesting question whether Richard Yea who made this will, and Richard Atya,

to whom the Chapter of Wells granted the manor of Okyngton (Oakhampton) in the year 1500, were not one and the same person. That this was the case is more than probable. Assuming the testator to have been five-and-twenty years of age in the year 1500, he would naturally have been seventy-three years of age at the time of making his will. The words used by Richard Yea, "*shall chance to enter into the farme of Okehampton,*" would seem to imply that he was not residing upon the farm at Oakhampton at the time of his death. It is unreasonable to suppose that the contingency under the grant from the Chapter in the year 1500 had not arisen by the death of Elena the widow of John Sydenham; and even if it had not, the lease would have expired in consequence of the death of Richard Yea and his wife, whose christian name is not given, and who was probably his first wife, therefore a fine must have been paid in order to renew the lease. From the date of this will down to the year 1608 there appears to have been a complete interregnum in the history of the family as far as Oakhampton is concerned. We lose sight of David Yea and his sister Radigond altogether. John Yea, whom it has been assumed was the elder son, evidently survived and resided in the parish of Wiveliscombe (perhaps at Yea's), because in the Wiveliscombe Parish Register we find this baptism for the year 1579—"David, ye sonne of John Yea the younger, ye XVIIIth October." (See Appendix D.) There can be very little doubt but that this was the Davyd Yea, of Wiveliscombe, gentleman, to whom the Dean and Chapter of Wells granted

a lease of Oakhampton on the 1st of October, 1608, for the lives of David Yea, gentleman, David Yea, gentleman, and Jane Allen, of Wembdon, daughter of Susan Allen, widow. From an old lease in the possession of Henry Bellew, Esq., of Oakhampton House, it appears that the farm of Oakhampton had been leased about six years previously for the term of 21 years to John Jones, of the City of Gloucester, gentleman, at a rental £5 1s. 0d.; and, from what can be gathered from the same lease, that the property had been previously leased to the same party. (See Appendix E.) It would almost appear as if the Dean and Chapter were undesirous of severing the connection which had so long existed between them and the Yea family for any longer period than a term of twenty-one years.

From the commencement of the Wiveliscombe Parish Register in the year 1558, down to the date of the lease just referred to, the entries of the baptisms, marriages, and burials of the family are exceedingly numerous. (See Appendix F.) By the aid of the Lay Subsidy Roll of the County of Somerset for the 34th and 35th years of the reign of Henry VIII. we are enabled to diminish and simplify these numbers. We find upon reference to this Roll for the years 1542-43 that there were four householders of the name of Yea who paid their subsidy in the county of Somerset, *viz.*, Richard and Walter Yea of Wiveliscombe, Richard Yea of Stawley, and John Yea of Asholt. Richard Yea of Wiveliscombe was, it may be surmised, the same as the Richard Yea whose will,

dated the 4th day of December, 1548, has already been quoted at some length; and Walter, who may possibly have been a younger brother, the Wiveliscombe Parish Register informs us, was buried on the 29th day of June, 1563. John Yea, of Asholt, a parish equidistant from Taunton and Bridgwater, was, there is every reason for believing, the common ancestor of a numerous branch of the family which formerly lived in Bridgwater, and in the parishes of Asholt, Cannington, Kingston, and Cothelstone. (See Appendix G.) Richard Yea of Stawley, a parish on the borders of the county of Devon, was perhaps the progenitor of the family which was to be found in the early part of the reign of James I. at Sampford Peverell, in the county of Devon, and subsequently at Morebath. As it has been already stated, from the death of Richard Yea in the year 1548, to the granting of the lease of Oakhampton to David Yea, of Wiveliscombe, gentleman, on the 1st of October, 1608, a period of sixty years, as far as it has been ascertained, the connection between the Yea family and that manor must have been severed. It may be, therefore, fairly assumed that it was to David Yea, the great grandson of Richard Yea, to whom the reversion for life was granted by the Dean and Chapter in the year 1500, who became lessee under the Dean and Chapter in the year 1608.

From the date of this lease the history of the family as lessees of Oakhampton down to the year 1811 can be clearly traced, although from the year 1608 to the 17th day of July, 1655, we

are unable to learn with whom its members in the direct line contracted their marriages. Although living in Somersetshire for so many centuries, it was, there is good reason for believing, essentially a Devonshire family both in respect of its traditions and matrimonial alliances; and it is somewhat remarkable that although several Parish Registers belonging to West Somerset have been carefully searched, and likewise the Bishop's Transcripts of the Parish Registers at Wells, very few entries with the exception of those contained in the Parish Registers of Wiveliscombe, have been found relating to this ancient family earlier than the reign of Charles I. There is likewise another remarkable fact worth noting, *viz.*, that in none of the early Wills which have been proved in the Archidiaconal Court at Taunton from the year 1538 to the year 1593 (both inclusive) has the name of Yea been discovered, either as a legatee, an executor, an attesting witness, or recorded in any other way except as appears in the will of Richard Yea of Wiveliscombe, dated in the year 1548, already quoted. Several wills, however, of members of the family, as already shewn, were proved during this period in the county of Devon. In this respect negative evidence is as valuable as positive. It should nevertheless be remembered that the parish of Wiveliscombe, as far as testamentary matters were concerned, was what was termed "a peculiar," that is, the Prebendary of Wiveliscombe had a Court of his own, in which the wills of all of those who died possessed of property exclusively within the parish of

Wiveliscombe were provable. But inasmuch as no records of this Court exist earlier than the year 1656 we are unable to throw as much light upon the history of the family prior to that period as could have been desired.

There is one remarkable record in existence which carries the antiquity of the Yea family with respect to the parish of Wiveliscombe, and in connection with the manor of Oakhampton within that parish more especially, back to a very remote period. As already premised, the Dean and Chapter of Wells were for several centuries the owners in fee of the manor of Oakhampton, which they were in the habit of granting upon leases for lives. And it is a somewhat singular fact that among the old Charters still preserved in the Library of Wells Cathedral—and what gives it additional interest is that it furnishes evidence of the first step taken towards vesting the manor, or at least a portion of the manor, in the Dean and Chapter—is a deed, being a lease and release dated at Drokenesford in the 6th year of Edward III. (A.D. 1332), executed by Philip de Drokenesford, brother and heir of John de Drokenesford, formerly Bishop of Bath and Wells, to Hamelin de Godele, Canon of Wells, of lands and tenements in Okehampton in the parish of Wiveliscombe, the witnesses to which were Lord John de Clyvedon sen., John de Erlegh, Ralph Fitzhours, Hugh de Langelond, Knts., John de Durburgh, and *John le Yea*. (See Appendix H., Charter No. 8). All of the names of these attesting witnesses, with the exception of that of John de Clyvedon, belonged to West Somerset. John



de Erlegh was possessed of the manors of Beckington, Somerton-Erle, Durston, Babcary, Michael's Church, and the manor and hundred of North Petherton, besides other possessions in the county of Somerset. (See *Collinson's History of Somerset*, Vol. II., p. 299). Ralph Fitzhours—whose surname was a corruption of that of Fitz-Urse, one of the assassins of Thomas a Becket, from whom he was a lineal descendant—lived at Williton.\* Hugh de Langelond was a Knight of the Shire for the County of Somerset in the 20th year of the reign of Edward II. John de Durburgh derived his surname from a manor in the parish of Stogursey, and either he or his descendants were shortly after the date of this charter seated at Heathfield, about five miles from Wiveliscombe. Although the definite article *le* prefixed to his surname shows that John le Yea did not derive his cognomen from any place or locality within the diocese of Bath and Wells, it nevertheless clearly implies that he belonged at least to a well-known and acknowledged house or family. The mere fact of his name appearing with that of John de Durburgh, the representative of an old manorial family—and the better opinion appears to prevail that the lords of ancient manors were esquires by prescription—together with the prefix *le*, is conclusive proof that he (John le Yea) was of the status of a gentleman.

After this slight digression from the main thread of the narrative,

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\* He, Ralph, was summoned 29 Edward I. to attend the king at Berwick-upon-Tweed, and in the 18th year of Edward II. to attend the army in Gascony.

we discover upon referring to an ancient document, being a rate dated the 26th of February, 1602 (see Appendix I.), entitled "The yearelie valewe of \*\*\*\*\* landes as everie man holding \*\*\* the pishe of Wiveliscombe \*\*\* for her maties service by the Churchwardens and overseers as followeth,"\* that two parishioners' names appear in the list for Oakhampton, *viz.*, David Yea as holding lands to the value of £80, and as it was a penny rate he is set down for 6s.8d.; and a William Chicke, but his share of the farm being only half the value of that held by the former tenant, he was rated accordingly. For the tithing of "Westtowne" we get the names of Phillip Yea, assessed to the value of £4; Joseph Yea, £10; John Yea sen., £16; and a widow of one of the junior branches of the Yea family, for Walbredge, £10; while for lands in the tithing of "Croford" John Yea jun. is rated to the value of £24. It may be here observed that from this rate it is evident that David Yea of Oakhampton was at this time the largest occupier of land in the parish of Wiveliscombe, with but one exception, *viz.*, the occupier of the Farm of Wiveliscombe, who was rated at £90. This Farm of Wiveliscombe was held by the Bishop's lessee, or Lord Farmer as he was usually styled, who was in fact lessee for lives of the whole Manor of Wiveliscombe, in demesne. The Lord Farmer at this time (A.D. 1602) was Humphrey Windham, Esq., whose effigy, together with that of his wife Margery, is still to be seen in the Church of Wiveliscombe.

\* Where the asterisks appear the corner of the original document has been torn away.

He was the third son of Sir John Windham, of Orchard Windham in the county of Somerset. Both tenants of the manor of Oakhampton must have held their lands at this time as sub-tenants under John Jones, the lessee, to whom it has been shewn that the Dean and Chapter granted a lease of this property for the term of twenty-one years; this lease was executed in the same year, but in the previous month. The names of the members of the Yea family—all of whom it may fairly be assumed at one time originated from one common ancestor—are exceedingly valuable as they are mentioned in this rate made for the parish of Wiveliscombe in the year 1602, inasmuch as they verify in a great measure the entries which are to be found at this period in the Parish Register. But it is with the history of the elder or Oakhampton branch of the family that we have principally to treat. We find upon referring to the Parish Register of Wiveliscombe the following entry among the burials in the year 1619:—"David Yea, gen. se : [gentleman, senior] the 17th of Aprill." This is without doubt the record of the burial of David Yea of Wiveliscombe, gentleman, to whom the Dean and Chapter granted the lease already referred to of Oakhampton in the year 1608, for the lives of himself and David Yea, gentleman, and Jane Allen of Wembdon, daughter of a Susan Allen; and whose name has likewise been referred to in connection with the rate made for the parish of Wiveliscombe in the year 1602. We also find in the same year (1619) that "John Yea.se : [senior] of Yea" was buried

on "the fowerth of September, 1619." Much light has been thrown on the history of the family at this period by the recent discovery of certain Star Chamber Proceedings taken in the reign of Elizabeth, to which David Yea and John Yea were parties. (See Appendix Z.) No will or administration of either David Yea, gentleman—whom it may be safely inferred was the lineal descendant of Richard Yea, who made his will on the 25th day of July, 1548—or John Yea senr., of Yea, whose registration of burial has just been referred to, is extant; but upon searching at Somerset House the will of a John Yea of Chipstable has been discovered, dated the 20th day of November, 1619. (See Appendix J.) As Chipstable is an adjoining parish to Wiveliscombe it is quite possible that David Yea of Oakhampton, John Yea of Yea, and John Yea of Chipstable were relatives, although the latter does not in any way refer to either of the former in his will. This will, however, although it furnishes no connecting link in the history of the Oakhampton or Okington branch of the family, is nevertheless an interesting document, and is therefore entitled to comment. The testator commences his will in the same formal manner in which wills made about that period were usually expressed, and states that it was his desire to be "buried in the parish Church of Chipstable aforesaid." Unfortunately the Registers of this parish have been lost previously to the year 1694, so that the entry of his burial cannot be found. Among the Transcripts at Wells is one of the Register of Chipstable in the

year 1621, but neither in this nor in the subsequent Transcripts of the parish has any Yea entry been discovered. The residence of this branch of the family at Chipstable can therefore hardly be considered to have been of a permanent nature. After what was at that time a substantial bequest to the poor of the parish, he gives to his son John all his "lands of inheritance in Withell, in the said county of Somerset," and the sum of £140, to be paid within one year after his, the testator's, decease. This land at Withiel (Florey) was at that time a portion of the outfaring district of the manor of Taunton Deane; and being held by the tenure of free and common socage, its tenants were compelled to do manorial suit and service at the Lord of the Manor's Court at Taunton Castle. Something of this nature appears to have happened after the death of John Yea of Chipstable, for in the Index to the Court Rolls of the Manor of Taunton Deane in the year 1620 are the words, "Robert Talbott per Warda: Elizabeth Yea." The Roll itself is in far too mutilated a condition to give any clue to the nature of the transaction, but what little remains of it sufficiently proves that it relates to lands at Withiell. The testator likewise was in a position to bequeath to his daughter the sum of £200, to be paid within one year after her marriage, provided such marriage had taken place with the consent of his executrix and overseers; but if not, then the £200 (which was a large sum of money in those days) was to be reduced to £10. While his daughter remained single her father provided that his

wife should pay over the £200 to his overseers [trustees] to be placed out at interest at the rate of twenty pence in the pound until his daughter attained the age of 26 years, when the principal was to be paid to her. This portion of the will is exceedingly valuable, illustrating as it does the scarcity of money in the time of James I., so much so that trust money at the high rate of more than eight per cent. was considered a safe investment, and that too upon an ordinary mortgage. It will be also observed that John Yea, the testator, directs that a considerable portion of the interest should be applied towards the education of his daughter Elizabeth. This at once testifies to the good social position of this branch of the family at this rather early period, when education among the landed proprietors throughout the country was so rarely regarded with that importance to which it was entitled. The testator further made provision that if his wife Elizabeth should happen to die before Emlyn Courten, his sister, his son, John Yea, should have and enjoy his "living" called Halsdon. There is a dwelling-house with land attached to it still known as Halsdon, or Halsdown, in the parish of Chipstable. Elizabeth, his wife, he appoints whole and sole executrix, and his "brother-in-laws, John Doble, Robert Talbote and John Talbote, and his kinsmen, William Doble and Bartholomew Doble, sons of the said John Doble, and his son, John Yea," his trustees, or, as they were then styled, overseers. Now the Talbots as well as the Dobles were, there is not the least doubt, the representatives of ancient and honourable

Devonshire families, especially the former, who held knight's fees in the adjoining county of Devon as far back as the reign of Henry II. There is very little doubt but that both they and the great Talbot family sprang from a common ancestor. William Talbot, a man-at-arms, was returned by the Sheriff of Devon in the year 1324, pursuant to a writ tested at Westminster on the 9th of May, to attend the Great Council. This branch of the family lived at this time in the parishes of Ashbrittle and Stawley, where we find them in the Parish Registers with such ancient baptismal names as Hughe and St. Leger.

The history of the elder or Oakhampton branch of the Yea family is rather perplexing and intricate about this period. We are informed by a Copy of the Survey made by order of the Parliament in the year 1649 (see Appendix K.) that upon the 2nd of April in the 15th year of the late King Charles the Oakhampton estate had been leased to David Yea senr., of Wiveliscombe in the county of Somerset, gentleman, his heirs and assigns, for the lives of him, the said David Yea senr., David Yea junr., Mary Yea, son and daughter of the said David Yea senr., and the life of the longest liver, at a rental of £5 1s. 0d. per annum, and that all the lives were then in being, the youngest of whom was about 30. Upon referring to the Wiveliscombe Parish Register we are able to verify this statement made respecting the age of the youngest life by the following entries among the baptisms:—1616: "Mary, the daughter of David Yea, the second of Ffebruary";

1618: "David Yea, the sonne of David Yea, in the 17th of May." There is not the least doubt but that these baptisms are those of the last two lives mentioned in the Survey taken in the year 1649, already quoted. Then the question arises as to the identity of David Yea, gentleman, senior, who was buried at Wiveliscombe on the 17th of April, 1619. It will be observed upon referring to the Rate made for Wiveliscombe in the year 1602 that there was but one David Yea rated to the poor in the whole parish of Wiveliscombe, and that was David Yea who was rated for the larger portion of Oakhampton. In the lease from the Dean and Chapter of Wells in the year 1608 the grant is to David Yea, gentleman, for the lives of David Yea, gentleman, and Jane Allen of Wembdon. If the first of these Davids were the son of John Yea the younger, baptized on the 18th of October, 1579, and who would naturally have been 29 years of age at the date of the lease in 1608, the question arises as to whose son was David Yea, gentleman, the second life mentioned in the same lease. The inference to be drawn from these facts gives a strong colour to the probability that David Yea who was rated to the poor for the greater portion of Oakhampton in the year 1602, David Yea, gentleman, to whom the lease of the same was granted by the Dean and Chapter upon the 1st of October, 1608, and David Yea, gentleman, senr., who was buried at Wiveliscombe on the 17th of April, 1619, were none other than the David Yea referred to in the will of Richard Yea, dated the 25th day of July, 1548. (See Appendix C.)



David Yea, gentleman, to whom the Oakhampton estate was leased by the Dean and Chapter of Wells in the 15th year of Charles I., married Ursula, only daughter of Edward Hobbes, gentleman, of Brompton Ralph and Stogursey, in the county of Somerset, the former of which places being almost close to Oakhampton. Although a careful search has been made in the Registers of each of these parishes, no entry of the marriage has been discovered. That a marriage between David Yea, gentleman, and Ursula Hobbes did take place is almost absolutely certain, because it is distinctly referred to by Sir William Yea, the first baronet, in the pedigree entered by him at the Herald's College shortly after his marriage with the eldest daughter of Sir George Trevelyan, Bart., of Nettlecombe. The baptism of this lady, Ursula Hobbes, is recorded in the Parish Register of Brompton Ralph, on the 3rd day of February, 1590, in Latin, as follows:—  
“1590—Baptizata vrsula filia Edwardi Hobbes tertii die ffebruarij.”  
This baptism took place a short time previously to the Hobbes family having acquired an additional residence, in the parish of Stogursey, for in a subsequent entry the baptism of her eldest brother, Thomas, is thus recorded:—“1595—Baptizatus apud Stogursey Thomas filius Edwardi Hobbes duodecimo die mensis octobris p' dict.” As a subsequent marriage took place between the Yea and Hobbes families, some account of the history of the latter may not be considered here altogether out of place. The Parish Register of Brompton Ralph commences about twenty years

after Registers of baptisms, &c., were first ordered to be kept in churches; and amongst the first entries recorded in the year 1558 is that of a marriage having been solemnized between Thomas Hobbes, of Wells, gentleman, and Elizabeth, daughter of John Webber, of that parish, on the 5th day of February, or rather, as the rector of the parish at that time entered it in Latin :—"1558, Matrimoniu' solemnizat inter Thoma' Hobbes de Welles generosu', et Elizabetha filia Johis webber istius parchie 5 ffebruarij." The truth of the facts as set out in this entry is borne out by the will of John Webber, a wealthy yeoman living at Brompton Ralph, dated the 18th of June, 1572, and which will was subsequently proved in the Archdeacon's Court at Taunton. (See Appendix L.) By a clause contained in this will he appointed his "son-in-law, Thomas Hobbes, gent." to be one of his overseers (trustees), and moreover gives him landed property in the parish. He likewise mentions "Edward Hobbes his sonne of the bodie of my daughter his wief," and "David Hobbes the sonne of the said Thomas Hobbes." The baptisms of both Edward Hobbes and David Hobbes appear in the Parish Register of Brompton Ralph, the former on the 11th day of February, 1560, and the latter on the 25th day of May, 1567. Several other children were the issue of this marriage, in fact it appears by the same Register that there was an elder son, Bartholomew Hobbes, but inasmuch as no other entry is to be found in the Register relating to him, it may be taken for granted that he died in his youth. Edward Hobbes,

gentleman, through whom we are about to trace descent, probably lived for a short time after his marriage either with his father or in the same parish, because it has just been shown his eldest child, Ursula, was baptized at Brompton Ralph on the third day of February, 1590, while five years later we find an entry to the effect that Thomas, the son of Edward Hobbes, was baptized at Stogursey. It may perhaps appear rather strange that a gentleman from Wells should have gone to seek a wife into so remote a part of the county as Brompton Ralph must have been in the year 1558, especially when the roads were so much in need of reparation; but it must be remembered that at the time when Thomas Hobbes and Elizabeth Webber were married the Bishops of Bath and Wells not only owned the adjoining manor of Wiveliscombe, but likewise had a palace, at which they occasionally resided, in the town, or rather borough, of Wiveliscombe; therefore it is not unreasonable to suppose that a constant communication was kept up between the city of Wells and the town of Wiveliscombe. By the help of the Visitation of the County of Somerset, carried out by Sir Henry St. George, Somerset Herald, and Mr. Sampson Lennard, Blue Mantle, in the year 1623, we are enabled to throw light upon certain phases in the history of the Hobbes family which are not altogether disclosed by Parish Registers. The family pedigree is set out by Edward Hobbes, their arms being:—  
*SABLE on three inescutcheons OR, three eaglets displayed SABLE. (Crest: a demi tiger AZURE, maned and langued ARGENT, pierced through the*

*breast by a spear OR, headed ARGENT*). Strangely enough he does not commence his pedigree with his father, Thomas Hobbes, who it has already been conclusively shewn was of the rank and condition of a gentleman, and therefore fully entitled to arms, but starts with his own marriage with Eleanor the daughter of Richard Malake, of Axminster, the issue of which marriage were: Thomas, his eldest son, whose entry of baptism in the Parish Register of Brompton Ralph in the year 1595 has already been referred to; John, a second son, then a student at Lincoln's Inn; and Ursula, his only daughter, who, as we have already ascertained, was baptized at Brompton Ralph on the 3rd day of February, 1590. At the date of this Herald's Visitation, in the year 1623, this lady was set down as being at that time married, although the name of her husband is not given. In the same Visitation we are informed that Thomas Hobbes, the eldest son, was twenty-three years of age, although it has been shewn that he was baptized in the year 1595. Thomas Hobbes it appears was then married to Mary, the daughter of Edward Battyn, gentleman, of Bristol, and upon referring to the Memoranda at the end of this Visitation, under the heading of Bristol, Edward Battyn's name appears as one of the only two solicitors practising in the city of Bristol (then the second largest city in England) who were at all recognized by the Heralds. From an entry in the Parish Register of Stogursey—or, as it is more properly written, Stoke Courcy—we are enabled to identify the residence of the Hobbes

family in that parish, because this entry, made in the year 1685, plainly states that Edward Hobbes lived at "our Priory in this Town." The entries relating to the Hobbes family in the early portion of the Stogursey Parish Register are few, while those contained in that of Brompton Ralph are rather numerous. (Sse Appendix L.)

David Yea, gentleman, to whom the Dean and Chapter of Wells granted a lease of Oakhampton on the 2nd of April in the 15th year of Charles I., and who was the husband of Ursula Hobbes, made his will on the 2nd of December, 1657, which will was proved in London on the 25th of November, 1658, by David Yea,\* his son (*Wotton*, 648). He therein refers to four of his children, *viz.*: his daughter, Susannah Sealy,† his daughter, Judith Eveleigh, his daughter, Mary Yea,‡ and his son, David Yea; also to his daughter-in-law, Mary Yea; to his granddaughter, Mary Yea,§ and in general terms to all of his grandchildren who were then living. It is from the particular wording of this will to be implied

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\* A.D. 1618.—David Yea, the sonne of David Yea, in the 17th of May. (Baptism).

† 1610.—Susanna, the daughter of Davyd Yea, the xvijth daye of December. (Baptism).

‡ 1616.—Mary, the daughter of David Yea, the second of february. (Baptism).

*Wirelcombe Parish Register.*

§ 1655.—Mary Yawe, Daughter of David Yawe, gent., and Mary his wife, was borne the xxijth day of June and baptized the 27th day of the same moneth.

*Stoke Courcy (Stogursey) Parish Register.*

that Ursula, his wife, was not then alive, not only for the reason that he (David Yea the elder) gave the residue of his goods, silver plate, &c., and all his lands, &c., to his son David, whom he made sole executor, and to his heirs for ever; but likewise from the fact that she is not even once referred to in the will. The families of Sealy and Eveleigh with whom his daughters had intermarried had at this time (during the Commonwealth) attained positions of trust and importance. Three overseers (trustees) were appointed, or rather requested, by him to act, *viz.*: Richard Meredith of Bagborough, gentleman; Edward Hobbes of Stogursey, gentleman; and William Carsewell of Ashpriors, gentleman. The Edward Hobbes here mentioned could scarcely have been Edward Hobbes who was baptized at Brompton Ralph in 1560, the father of Ursula, the deceased wife of David Yea the elder, who in the year 1657 would have been ninety-seven years of age, but was more probably the son of Thomas Hobbes and his wife Elizabeth (*née* Battyn), and therefore the brother-in-law of David Yea the younger. From what we may judge from a few of the papers left behind by David Yea, gentleman, whose will was proved on the 25th November, 1658, he was a strict churchman, but was at the same time a moderate supporter of the measures introduced in this part of the country by the Parliament, or rather the Protectorate. One of these documents, dated the 7th of April, 1656, signed by John Wood, minister, David Yea, David Story, Francis Hill, and Robert Hancocke, and endorsed, "Concerning the

warrant about the Caverleares," is exceedingly interesting. (See Appendix M.) It commences with an enumeration of the idle and disorderly persons who were then to be found in the town of Wiveliscombe; after which follows a list of the names of all those living in Wiveliscombe who had "borne armes for the late king" Charles I.; and all the young people who were then fit to go into service to earn their own living. Then follows full particulars of the inns and innkeepers in the town, together with the alehouses and alehousekeepers; finishing up with the following rather amusing information:—"To the 7<sup>th</sup> wee return that noe Bull-baytings or cocke-matches are known to bee amongst vs." The whole document in fact contains a large amount of local intelligence which has hitherto remained almost entirely unknown and never before published.

Two or three letters which Mr. David Yea had received from correspondents a few years previously to his death are well worthy of notice on account of the peculiarity of the phraseology then used. All of them are very neatly written, some of the words being much abbreviated, as was then the custom. The first is from a gentleman holding apparently some official appointment, living at a place called Charleton, but whether it was Charlton in the parish of Creech St. Michael, near Taunton, the residence of the Ceily or Sealy family, we have no means of ascertaining. It is dated the 1st of May, 1655, and is addressed by the writer—

“To his very Loueinge friend Mr. Yea in or neere  
Wiuelliscombe, these.”

“Leaue y<sup>e</sup> w<sup>th</sup> Mr. Edrd Chandler the sadler in Taunton  
to be speedily sent as aboue.”

The seal on the outside, very much worn and broken, bears the motto, “Vita Mori,” and the letter is as follows :—

“S<sup>r</sup> Accordinge to my pmise (tho’ longe first) I haue hereine-  
closed sent you a Coppy of Wiuilliscombe & fueheads order I  
could not send it from the assizes beinge not ther And this is all  
at p<sup>r</sup> sent from yo<sup>r</sup> very Loueinge friend

Charleton 1<sup>o</sup> May, 1655.

E. Langdon.”

What was the nature of the order referred to in this letter relating to Fitzhead and Wiveliscombe it would be useless to attempt to surmise, although the letter itself, on account of the quaintness of the style in which it is written, is well entitled to a small space in the family history.

A second letter, written and addressed by a Mr. Thos. Durston of Catcott (near Bridgwater), on the 15th of September, 1655,

“ffor Mr. David Yeaw att his house

att Wivelscombe theis

leaue this w<sup>th</sup> Mr. Poore

in

att y<sup>e</sup> Lamb att

Som<sup>r</sup>. st.

Bridgwater to be sent ”

is well worth recording :—



“ Mr. Yeaw

I haue severall times since I saw you att Bridgwat<sup>r</sup>. faire sought for a copy of y<sup>e</sup>. report w<sup>ch</sup> Mr. Moore & Cap<sup>t</sup>. Gill made att Som<sup>r</sup>. ton in Decemb<sup>r</sup>. last but cannot find it soe as to testifie it to be a true Coppy but for substance & as neere as I can peeke it out of y<sup>e</sup>. rough draught out (*sic.*) I have sent it in closed w<sup>th</sup>n all but Mr. service to yo’ selfe & y<sup>r</sup>. good wife wishing you much joy I subscribe

Yors to serue you

Catcott 15<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>o</sup>. 1655.

Tho. Durston.”

This letter was likewise sealed with wax, but the impression, which appears to represent the letters T.D., is hardly so pronounced as that of the former.

The fair referred to in this letter as Bridgwater Fair was formerly one of the largest and most important in the West of England. It commenced on the 21st of September (St. Matthew’s Day) in each year, and provided that day fell upon a Monday the fair was generally kept up during the remainder of the week. The fair was not only the resort of those who came for the purpose of either buying or selling cattle and horses, but was likewise largely attended by merchants and manufacturers for the purpose of selling their wares and merchandise, besides being generally a rendezvous for country gentlemen, especially those who directed their attention to agricultural pursuits.

The third letter, although of an earlier date, has, on account of

its being of a more general nature, been reserved for publication until the last. It is written and addressed by a Mr. Archer, on the 6th of September, 1652,

“For his Loueing ffreinds and acquaintance The Parishion<sup>rs</sup> of Wiuelscombe and ffitzhead—

These w<sup>th</sup> care.”

“Gentlemen

It greiues mee to think upon those unciuill Clashings betweene yo<sup>r</sup>. two pishes who ought rather to couple yo<sup>r</sup>. selues together in loue & amity (being soe neerely related one unto y<sup>e</sup>. other in eu’y thing) but that you should fall out about soe inconsiderable a matter, as it cleerely seemes to mee to be, makes it seeme the more unciuill. Gentlemen: you all know the reason of my survey to be my masters comand, and I find there-upon I will gladly impte unto you both if phaps it may abayte anything w<sup>th</sup> you to y<sup>e</sup>. ending of this new upstarte difference: haueing compared mine with yo<sup>r</sup>. owne surveyes (retourned in to M<sup>r</sup>. Avery &c. by yo<sup>r</sup>. pishion<sup>rs</sup> on y<sup>e</sup>. 12<sup>th</sup> January: 1647) (viz<sup>t</sup>) that of the one pish w<sup>th</sup> that of the other & comparing them seuerally w<sup>th</sup> the rates of either towne (haueing both seene & read both yo<sup>r</sup>. rates) I doe find y<sup>e</sup>. yeerely worth of both yo<sup>r</sup>. pishes to bee (as followeth) that of Wiuelscombe to bee about 1215<sup>li</sup> 10<sup>s</sup>. 00<sup>d</sup> and that of ffitzhead to be but 0596<sup>li</sup>: 05<sup>s</sup>. : 00 : soe that the pish of Wiuelscombe seemes cleere to mee to be full 23<sup>li</sup> p ann’ worth more then two of ffitzhead: And I pray take notice w<sup>th</sup> all that I haue vallewed what

is not in my Masters Mano<sup>r</sup>. in either of yo<sup>r</sup> pishes according to both yo<sup>r</sup>. rates at y<sup>e</sup> same proportion w<sup>th</sup> the forementioned survey. Gent : if this shall any wayes pleasure you or tend (in y<sup>e</sup> least matter) to y<sup>e</sup> composeing of yo<sup>r</sup>. differences and to the reduceing of you to yo<sup>r</sup>. antient loue I shall thinke my selfe happy that to leaue this w<sup>th</sup> you did euer come into my thoughts : But allas : I would not forgett any one of you, I am soe farre ingaged to you all, in that (being a stranger) you soe ciuilly & kindly bad mee welcome, at all yo<sup>r</sup>. howses : ffor which (bidding you all farewell) I doe returne you all most hearty thanks for yo<sup>r</sup>. kindnesses : and while I can requite them must remaine

Yo<sup>r</sup>. Debtor :

Septemb. y<sup>e</sup> 6<sup>th</sup>

S. E. Archer.

1652

ffarewell my friends.”

There is another curious document in the possession of one of the lady members of the Yea family, dated the 19th of November, 1653, bearing the signatures of John Wood, the clergyman of the parish, and David Yea, which purports to be a true copy of another document under the hands of the churchwardens, tithing-men and parishioners of Fitzhead, dated the 13th of June, 1650 (see Appendix N.) the effect of which was to show that Fitzhead had always been a Chapel-of-Ease belonging to the Vicarage of Wiveliscombe, that the tithes of Fitzhead alone were not a sufficient maintenance for an able minister, that the clergyman

of Wiveliscombe would suffer from the alienation in consequence of his being at that time rated and charged for the tithes and other payments of Fitzhead, and that he had already lost nearly £40 by reason of the three years' alienation.

From these few documents enough can be gathered to shew that David Yea the elder, whose will (dated the 2nd of December, 1657) has been but recently quoted, was during the Commonwealth the chief and most influential gentleman residing within the parish of Wiveliscombe. In his will he is described as living in the parish of Wiveliscombe, but the Parish Register of Wiveliscombe gives much more particular information, for under the heading of burials is the following entry :—"Maj<sup>ster</sup> Daved Yea the yelder of Ockenton hows buried the 5th of May 1658." It may be here remarked that the term "Master" in olden times was considered the proper form of address for a gentleman ; and although its more primitive style of pronunciation, "Maister," would be considered antiquated and even illiterate at the present time, it was by no means accepted as such, even by the educated classes, two hundred and fifty years ago, when the West-country dialect was spoken with far greater purity than it is at present.

In the same year (1658) that Master David Yea of Oakhampton died, Master John Yea of Yea, in the parish of Wiveliscombe, was also buried, and his interment is thus recorded in the Parish Register of Wiveliscombe : "1658—Ma' John Yea the husband of Mary Yea, bueried the 21st of January." His will, which bears

date the 8th day of January, 1658, was proved in London on the 21st day of May, 1659, by Mary Yea, the relict and sole executrix (*Rel* 297). The will itself is of some considerable value, inasmuch as it proves that with him the Yeas of Yea became extinct, and this fact tends greatly to simplify the investigation of the subsequent history of the Oakhampton branch of the family. It likewise excites more than usual interest, because it contains a short reference to the home from whence in all probability the whole of the Somersetshire Yeas originally migrated. (See Appendix O.) The testator, John Yea, gave to his kinsman, Will Gill, three parcels of land, after the decease of Mary his (John Yea's) wife; and two other closes, called "Redgraton" and "Easter Ranscombe," for 99 years, if Will Gill and the woman whom he should marry and his first child should so long live, at the yearly rent of two shillings. To his kinsman, William Ward, he gave (after the decease of his wife, Mary Yea) two parcels of land, called "Wester Ranscombe," under the yearly rent of one shilling, for 99 years, if the said William Ward and the woman who should be his wife should so long live. The testator then gave "to theise my said kinsmen, Will Gill and William Ward, jointly together the Easter Chamber Loft and Butterie next to the North Court with the use of the Hall Chimney and going to and from the Hall into the said Roomes and the North East platt of Garden for term and in manner aforesaid." This clause clearly implies that a large portion of the house at Yea was reserved to

Mary Yea, the relict (whom the testator appointed his residuary legatee and sole executrix), for her life, as a part of her dower. Pecuniary bequests were made to Francis and Joseph Yea, his brother's sons. This will, as it has been previously stated, has its especial value because it enables us at once to dispose of this branch of the family and to continue uninterruptedly with that of Oakhampton.

David Yea, gentleman, of Oakhampton, the son of David Yea, gentleman, and Ursula, his wife, married on the 17th day of July, 1655, in the parish Church of Wiveliscombe, before John Turberville, Esq., one of the Justices of the Peace for the county of Somerset, who then resided at Gaulden in the parish of Tolland, Mistress Mary Hobbes, of Stogursey, spinster. This young lady was the daughter of Thomas Hobbes, gentleman, of Stogursey, and Mary his wife (*née* Battyn). The contracting parties were therefore first cousins; and the publication of their banns of marriage having taken place at Stogursey as well as at Wiveliscombe amounts to almost positive proof that it took place with the entire consent and approval of both families. The evidence of the publication of the banns and the subsequent marriage appears in the Wiveliscombe Parish Register in the year 1655, as follows:—

“Be it remembered that on y<sup>e</sup>. 10<sup>th</sup> and on y<sup>e</sup>. 17<sup>th</sup> and on y<sup>e</sup>. 24<sup>th</sup> dayes of June 1655 Being three lordes dayes following an Agreement of Marriage between Mr. David Yea our parish yeoman and M<sup>rs</sup>. Mary Hobbs of Stogursey in the County of Somersett Spinster

was publisht in our Church of Wivilscombe according to the act of parliament in that behalfe provided by me

William Wood Regester of the same parish."

"Be it remembered that on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1655, Mr. David Yea and Mr<sup>s</sup> Mary Hobbes were lawfully Married before John Turberville Esq<sup>r</sup> one of the Justices of the pece for the county of Somerset according to the act of Parliament in that beehalf provided.

(Signed) John Turburville."

The following is the entry of the publication of their banns in the Parish Register of Stogursey or Stoke Courcy :—

"1655—Mr. David Yawe of Wivelscombe & Mr<sup>s</sup> Mary Hobbs of Stogursey Daughter of Mr. Tho. Hobbs of Stogursey had their banes published three lords dayes according to the Act the x<sup>th</sup> of June the xvij<sup>th</sup> and the xxiiij<sup>th</sup> day of the same moneth."

By the help of the will of David Yea, gentleman, the publication of whose banns and subsequent marriage with Mistress Mary Hobbes of Stogursey has just been referred to, and which will was made on the 10th day of October, 1685, and proved in London on the 7th February, 1686, by David Yea, his son and executor, (*Foot* 35)—(See Appendix P.)—we find that he had at the time of his death five surviving children, *viz.*: David Yea, his son and heir,\*

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\* "1663—David the sonn of David Yea Baptized the 21st day of January."

and four daughters—Mary,\* Jane,† Elizabeth,‡ and Dorothy, the last mentioned of whom was then a minor. He likewise had previously a daughter of the name of Dorothy, whose burial is recorded in the year 1675.§ The testator in his will, after making what would then be considered liberal provision for his daughters, which was to be increased should his wife happen to die within the space of two years after his death, gives, to use his own language, “to the said Mary my now wife the best gilded horse or mare which I shall have at the time of my death and the use of all the rest of the household stuffe such as my sonne David Yea shall have occasion for for his then present use to gratify her my said wife till my said son David Yea shall be intermarried or have occasion to use it himself.” And having settled the greater portion of his estate before the date of his will by way of jointure upon his wife, he expresses a hope that in consideration thereof she would take care of his daughters and enlarge their portions as occasion should offer,

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\* “1656—Mary Yawe Daughter of David Yawe gent. and Mary his wife was borne the xxiiij<sup>th</sup> day of June & baptized the 27<sup>th</sup> day of the same moneth.”

*Stogursey (Stoke Courcy) Parish Register,*

† “1659—Jane the daughter of Mr. David Yea & Mary his wife borne the 3<sup>th</sup> of March and Baptized the 5<sup>th</sup> of May 1659.”

‡ “1661—Elizabeth the daughter of David Yea was borne the 3<sup>rd</sup> of february and baptized the 11<sup>th</sup> of february, 1661.”

“1697—June ye 3<sup>d</sup> was buried Elizabeth ye Daughter of Madam Yea.”

§ “1675—Dorithey the Daughter of Mr. Dauey and Mary Yea the 18<sup>th</sup> (?)”

*Wiveliscombe Parish Register.*



and that she would give his son his diet and afford him such house-room at Oakhampton as he should require until provided with a house of his own. The residue of all his real and personal estate he gave to his son David, with the proviso that if he (David) should die unmarried then all the real and personal estate bequeathed to him should be divided equally between his (the testator's) daughters, and he made his son David sole executor. Edward Hobbs, of Stogursey, Esq., John Burland, of Stogursey, gentleman, and Robert Clute, of Coombe St. Nicholas, gentleman, he appointed his overseers, with the desire that they, with his wife, would assist his son and executor, "and to take all convenient opportunity to purchase a further estate in this my farm called Oakehampton so that the same may continue to my successors." All of these gentlemen were relatives. Edward Hobbes, Esq., who was a brother to Mary Yea, the testator's wife, was filling at the time that this will was made a high and, at that period, a responsible appointment. It was no less than that of the office of High Sheriff of the County of Somerset, during the year that the Battle of Sedgmoor, the last battle fought upon English soil, took place; and he was therefore compelled by virtue of his office to carry out the severe sentences passed by the inhuman Jeffreys during the Bloody Assize held at the Taunton Castle. He (Edward Hobbes) was also a witness to the Grant made by the Dean and Chapter of Wells to David Yea, gentleman, his brother-in-law, for the lives of the said David Yea, Mary his

wife, and Mary his daughter, of the Oakhampton estate, on the 1st of October in the 14th year of King Charles II. having been carried into effect. (See Appendix Q.) With respect to the second gentleman nominated by the testator to act as overseer or trustee, the name of Burland is rather anciently connected with the parish and neighbourhood of Stogursey. He was the husband of Dorothy Hobbes, who was a sister to the testator's wife Mary. Robert Chute, gentleman, the last person mentioned by the testator to fill that office was without doubt David Yea's brother-in-law, an entry to the effect that a marriage had taken place between Robert Chute, gentleman, of Combe St. Nicholas, and Elizabeth Hobbes of Stogursey, being still to be seen in the Stogursey Parish Register.\* The family of Chute was at the date of this marriage residing in the parish of Combe St. Nicholas, near Chard, where it had continued from the middle of the reign of Elizabeth. The members of this family occupied the position of Seneschals or Stewards of the various lands belonging to the Bishops of Bath and Wells in that neighbourhood. The last mentioned fact can be verified by reference to the Steward's Book of the Manors of Chard and Combe St. Nicholas which is to be found among the Serle Collection of Papers belonging to the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society in their Library in the Taunton Castle.

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\* "1655—Robert Chute gent. of Combe St. Nicholas, and Elizabeth Hobbes of this parish, their banes being thrice lawfully asked were marryed the last of October 31."—*Stogursey (Stoke Courcy) Parish Register*.

It is more than probable that it was during the lifetime of David Yea, gentleman, whose will has just been quoted at some considerable length, that the value of slate, which was then and still is to be found in large quantities upon the Oakhampton estate, was first properly recognised and turned to profitable use. Upon referring to the Churchwardens' Accounts for the parish of Wiveliscombe, made by the Churchwardens, John Michell the younger and William Bowering, on the 10th day of July, 1686, and signed by David Yea junr. and others, we find the following entry among the disbursements:—"Pd Mr David Yea for 4000 and 3 seams of hilling stons 15<sup>s</sup>. 09<sup>d</sup> &c." (See Appendix F.) As numerous other entries appear from time to time to the like effect in the parish books belonging to Wiveliscombe, there can be but little doubt that the slate quarries upon the Oakhampton estate contributed in no small degree to increase the wealth of the family, and thus enabled it to maintain its honourable position and to keep pace with the advancement of the times.

The records of the family history are much strengthened about this time by the will of Mrs. Mary Hobbes, of Stogursey, widow (the mother of Mrs. David Yea, or rather, as she is described during her widowhood, Madam Yea), dated the 18th day of October, 1668, and which will was proved in London (*Coke* 160) on the 6th day of December, 1669. (See Appendix R.) The introductory portion of this will is exceedingly formal, and it may therefore be taken in some measure to be a fair specimen of the prolixity which had

crept into testamentary matters soon after the Restoration. "In the name of God Amen The Eighteenth Day of October One thousand six hundred Sixty and Eight I Mary Hobbes of Stogursey in the County of Somersett Wyd. being weake of body and good and perfect remembrance thankes bee given to Almighty God therefore calling to mind the vncertainty of mortality and that Death to all is certaine though the tyme manner and place alltogether vncertaine haue thought fitt to dispose of the Tallent which God hath lent mee And therefore Doe make and ordaine this my last Will and Testament in manner and forme following ffirst and principally I Comend my Soule unto the hands of Almighty God my Maker and his mercy beleiving by and through the Death and passion of Jesus Christ my only Saviour and Redeemer to have the Remission of all my Sinns to have life everlasting and to bee ptaker of the ioyes prepared for the Elect Amongst whome I beleiue to bee one and my body to bee buried in the Chancell of Stogursey aforesaid as neere the body of my Deere husband Mr. Thomas Hobbs deceased as conveniently it may And all those wordly goods which God hath giuen mee I giue and bequeath them in manner and forme following," &c. After having given the interest of a certain sum of money to be divided annually amongst the poor of Stogursey, she gave to her son (Edward Hobbes) and his heirs all her "lands and tenements of inheritance lyeing within the Citty of Bristol." It will be recollected that this lady was the daughter of a Mr. Edward Battyn, an eminent Bristol attorney,

which well accounts for the fact of her having died possessed of lands and tenements within that city. A pecuniary bequest having been made by her to her daughter, Dorothy Burland, she likewise gives a legacy to her "grandchild, Mary Yea, the daughter of David Yea," to be paid to her on her attaining twenty-one years of age or marriage. As Mrs. Hobbes gave no other pecuniary legacy to any of her granddaughters who were members of the Yea family, it serves to clear up and entirely sets aside a seeming act of injustice, *viz.*, that of David Yea, gentleman, by his will dated the 10th of October, 1685, having given a considerably less sum of money to his eldest daughter Mary than to either of her sisters. Then follows several other bequests, such as, "to my Daughter Dorothy my Silver Salt with a Topp belonging to it which shee have now in her custody"; "to my Grandchild Thomas Hobbes Six silver spoones"; "vnto Maude Stodden the wife of John Stodden," 40s.; "vnto Elizabeth Stodden the wife of George," 40s.; "vnto my grandchild Mary Yea the middle Drawer of Lynninge in the parlor Chamber and the other Drawer to my Grandchild Mary Hobbes"; "to my Grandchild Robert Chatte [Chute] one silver Bole"; to my Grandchild David Yea one silver bole"; "to all the rest of my Grandchildren that are now liveing one peice of plate a peice to the value of Three pounds"; "vnto Prudence Perry formerly Luttrell the some of" 20s. All the rest of her goods and chattels, after payment of debts and legacies, she gave to her "said sonne Edward Hobbes," whom she appointed

sole executor; and expressed her desire that Mr. Richard Meredith, Clerk, and Mr. Robert Chatte [Chute] would "be assistant" to her son as overseers (trustees), and "for their paines" she gave to each of them a ring to the value of forty shillings.

It will be recollected that the issue of the marriage of Mary the daughter of Mrs. Hobbes (the contents of whose will has just been given) with David Yea, gentleman, consisted of one son, David, and four daughters, *viz.*: Mary, the eldest, Jane, Elizabeth who died unmarried, and Dorothy. These young ladies were well educated, so much so indeed that their educational advantages seem to have greatly exceeded that which country gentlemen were usually in the habit of extending to their children in the reign of Charles II. This fact is sufficiently proved by the contents of a document which still exists among the family papers, which bears on the outside this endorsement:—"My Brother Yea Acc<sup>t</sup> of the profitts of Westerly Synce o<sup>r</sup> Lady day 1661." (See Appendix S.) On the first page of this statement of account are given the particulars of the receipts of the rents and profits arising from a farm called "Westerley," while on the inside page are set out the particulars of certain disbursements which were to be deducted from the sum total arising out of the rents and profits, or to use the exact words, "A pticular w<sup>t</sup> moneys I have p<sup>d</sup> Brother Yea o<sup>r</sup> Lady day 1661." Several of the items, which extend from the 20th February, 1670, to the 18th June, 1673, both inclusive, disclose exceedingly interesting facts. From the entries in this account it appears that

the two eldest daughters of the family, Mistress Mary and Mistress Jane Yea, were during this period being educated at a young ladies' academy kept by a certain Mistress Wheateley. Where Mistress Wheateley lived we are not informed, but it was evidently at some distance from Wiveliscombe, because the Misses Yea boarded with a certain person, either their paternal or maternal cousin, who is described as cousin Gray.\* The course of instruction which they underwent was apparently of a liberal and extended nature, there being not only entries of sums of money paid for thread for their use, but likewise various sums which from time to time had been advanced in order to satisfy the claims of the dancing master. This all tends to shew the privileges enjoyed by the lady members of the Yea family at a time when a plain education, unaccompanied by any of those accomplishments which are so extensively enjoyed in the present age, was not only exceedingly rare, but much less appreciated. Mistress Mary Yea was in the year 1730 a widow bearing the surname of Granger, while Mistress Dorothy Yea was at the same time a Mrs. Dorothy Collins. This last named lady had twice been married, for in the year 1725 we find her described as Mrs. Dorothy Chute. Mistress Jane Yea may possibly have died unmarried, because we do not find her name mentioned in a document of any kind subsequently to her father's will.

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\* "1699—John Hobbes Esqr. and Mrs. Margaret Gray married at Neither Stowey October 24th."—*Stogursey (Stoke Courcy) Parish Register*.

David, the eldest son of David Yea, gentleman, and Mary his wife (*née* Hobbes), married Dorothy, the youngest daughter of Sir William Lacy, Knt., and co-heiress of her brother, Arthur Lacy, Esq., of Hartrow, in the parish of Stogumber, in the county of Somerset. At the time this marriage took place, and for four or five generations previously, the family of Lacy resided at Hartrow, where it held the position of one of the first armiger families in the county. Two descents are given by William Lacy of Hartrow, and Ezileus Lacy of Rowborrow, Esquires, in the Visitation made by the Heralds in Somersetshire in the year 1623, their arms being:—*GULES two bars wavy* *ERMINE*. (See Appendix T.) It is needless to say that through this marriage the Yea family have long exercised the right of quartering these arms with their own. At what time the Lacy family acquired the manor of Hartrow we have no means of ascertaining, but there can be but little doubt that the name, speaking as it were for itself, was originally of Norman origin. The manor of Hartrow, where the Lacy family resided, is exceedingly ancient, and can be most adequately described in Collinson's (the Historian of Somersetshire) own words: "On the south side of Stogumber, two miles distant from the Church, stands Preston, in which are eight farms; and near it, still more southerly, *Hartrow*, now a depopulated place, but in ancient times a considerable village, the ruins of the dwellings being frequently discovered in the garden and fields. In the Conqueror's Survey



it is recorded that 'Roger holds of William [de Moion] *Haretrev*. Ulwold held it in the time of King Edward, and paid for one hide. There is arable for five ploughs. In demesne is one plough, with one slave: and two *villani*, and six (*bordarii*) cottagers have one plough. There is a mill at six pence rent, and five acres of meadow, and one hundred acres of pasture, and six acres of wood. It was formerly worth ten shillings, now twenty shillings.' (See *Collinson*, Vol. III., p. 546). Collinson goes on to state that the manor itself was held of the Castle of Dunster by a family of the name of Hartrow, and was for some time the estate of the families of Lacy and Rich, but in the year 1791 had become the property of the Rev. Bickham Escott. He further informs us that the ancient mansion which, to use his own words, had been "partly modernised," was still in being, "and its environs, which are naturally beautiful, art has rendered admirably pleasing," and also that "here was anciently a small chapel." Hartrow, which is now the property and residence of the Rev. William Sweet-Escott, J.P., is without doubt one of the most delightfully situated residences to be found in the West of England, not only on account of the scenery, but for its sylvan surroundings. The present house stands upon the site of an older one, built about the year 1580 by a member of the Lacy family. In "*The History of the Parish of Bitton in the County of Gloucester*," by the Rev. H. T. Ellacombe, M.A., F.S.A., appears a most interesting and instructive account of the Lacy family. At page 120 the reverend gentleman gives

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the pedigree of the family. William Lacy, of the county of Northumberland, married Jane, the daughter and heiress of ..... William Lacy, his son, married Alice, daughter of.....Pipord. The issue of this marriage was:—John Lacye, gentleman, a wealthy clothworker of London and Bristol, who died at Hanham in the parish of Bitton, county of Gloucester, on the 19th of August, 1577; William Lacye, a second son; and John Lacye, of London, Esq., clothworker, who had landed property at Putney, Slipton in Oxfordshire, the manor of Brislington in the county of Somerset, and held Hanham as a free tenant. An *Inquisition post mortem* was taken of his lands in the year 1607. He, the last mentioned John Lacy, married the heiress of Barnard Langton, and was succeeded by his son, Sir Rowland Lacy, the ancestor of the Lacys of Oxfordshire. (See the *Herald's Visitations of Oxfordshire* in the years 1566, 1574, and 1634, published by the Harleian Society). From John Lacy, his brother, of London and Bristol, whose wife was called Margery, were immediately descended the Lacys of Hartrow. This merchant prince, who had we are informed a house at Fulham, where Queen Elizabeth frequently visited him, purchased in the year 1566, of a certain person named John Reed, the manor house of West Hanham and the remaining portion of the manor itself, consisting of fourteen hundred and seventy acres. The entire manor belonged before the suppression of religious houses to the Abbot and Convent of Keynsham in Somersetshire. He

died on the 19th of August, 1577, seised in fee simple of Hanham, Upton and Cullihall, in the county of Gloucester. His eldest son, William Lacye, who died at Hartrow in the parish of Stogumber, on the 29th of May, 1607, married Joan Brinsmeade, of Bishop's Hull in the county of Somerset, and relict of..... Sweeting, of Thorncombe in the parish of Bicknoller, in the same county. It is not at all improbable that this marriage was the inducement which led to this branch of the Lacy family taking up its abode at Hartrow, in the adjoining parish of Stogumber. This William Lacy, of Hartrow, gentleman, by his will, dated the 15th of February in the 45th year of the reign of Elizabeth, desired to be buried at Stogumber near his wife. He gave to his eldest son, William Lacey, his lease in the Chauntry of Newton Placey in the parish of North Petherton, in the county of Somerset. He refers to his "eldest son William Lacey, and Margaret his wife," George Lacey, John Lacey and Thomas Lacey, "sons of my eldest son," "my daughters Julyan and Ursula," "my son-in-law, William Rawles," and "my son-in-law, John Sweeting." John Sweeting, who was more strictly speaking his stepson, filled at the time of the Herald's Visitation of Somerset, in the year 1623, the office of High Constable of the Hundred of Williton Freemanors, consisting of thirty-one parishes, situated in the western part of the county. William Lacy's will was proved in the Prerogative Court of the Archbishop of Canterbury on the 31st of December, 1607 (*Huddleston*

92). Margaret Lacy, his son's wife, was the daughter of Richard Bampfylde, Esq., of Poltimore, in the county of Devon, and Elizabeth, his wife, daughter of Sir John Sydenham, of Brimpton, in the county of Somerset. It is almost unnecessary to state that Richard Bampfylde was an ancestor of the present Lord Poltimore. Several other manors belonged to William Lacye, among them being Hanham in the parish of Bitton, which he appears, according to the account given by the author of the "*History of Bitton*," to have mortgaged to his cousin, Sir Rowland Lacye. As already shewn by the will of William Lacye the elder, (dated February 15th in the 45th year of Elizabeth, proved 31st December, 1607), William Lacye the younger (his son) and Margaret, his wife, were at that time the parents of three children. Of these three sons, as far as can be ascertained, only one had survived in the year 1623, because in the Herald's Visitation of Somerset for that year William Lacy mentions Thomas Lacy, his son and heir, aged 24, and two daughters, *viz.*: Julian and Ursula, married to John Hoskin of Langdon in the county of Dorset. These last mentioned facts respecting his daughters are in a certain measure rather strangely corroborated by the Bishop's Transcript of the Parish of Stogumber in the year 1623.\* William Lacy, gentleman, the grandson of William Lacy and

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\* *Stogumber, 1623.—Marriages.*

"John Hoskins gent. to Ursula Lacy xxiiij<sup>th</sup> of Octr."

"Walter Langdon Esqr. to Julian Lacy xxiiij<sup>th</sup> of October."

Margaret Bampfylde, and consequently heir to his father, Thomas Lacy, who died during his father, William Lacy's lifetime, married Sarah, daughter and co-heiress of Michael Hole of Wotton Courtenay in the county of Somerset. He, William Lacy, Esq., was returned among those gentlemen who were intended to have been created Knights of the Royal Oak, and filled the office of High Sheriff of the county of Somerset in the year 1692. The issue of this marriage consisted of three daughters and four sons, *viz.*: George and Nicholas, who died without issue; William, who married Susannah, the daughter of Robert Hunt, Esq., of Compton Pauncefoot in the county of Somerset, and who died leaving an only daughter, his heiress, married to Thomas Rich, Esq.; and Arthur Lacy, who, after surviving his brothers, died without surviving issue. Administration of the personal estate and effects of Arthur Lacy, Esq., of Hartrow, were granted on the 26th November, 1729, to Isabella Lacy, his relict. Arthur Lacy had during his lifetime, in the 12th year of William III., obtained, in order to pay off a mortgage and for the apparent object of consolidating his estates, a private Act of Parliament, entitled, "An Act for Sale of severall Westernne Mannors and Lands the Estate of Arthur Lacy Esquire for dischargeing a Mortgage thereupon and for laying out the Surplus Money in the Purchase of Demesne Lands to be settled to the same uses." It was by virtue of this Act that he was enabled to sell his Gloucestershire property.

After his death his landed estates passed to his three sisters, his co-heiresses, Ann, Elizabeth, and Dorothy. Of these three co-heiresses, Elizabeth married Edward Langdon, gentleman, and Dorothy, the youngest, married David Yea, gentleman, of Oakhampton. Ann, the elder sister, probably died unmarried. Upon referring to the will of George Lacy, gentleman, dated in July, 1691 (*Vere* 144) and proved the same year, we find that he gave to his sisters, Ann, Elizabeth, and Dorothy, gold rings; but Ann's name is not mentioned in that of his mother, Sarah Lacy, made January 9th, 1698. She, Sarah Lacy, refers to her son-in-law, Edward Langdon, gentleman, and to his children, Edward and Sarah Langdon, "my daughter Elizabeth Langdon," "my grandchild, David Yea," "his mother, my daughter Dorothy," but makes no bequest of any kind to her daughter Ann; it may therefore be safely inferred that Ann Lacy died during her mother's lifetime. Hartrow not long afterwards passed to the family Rich of Bagborough through the marriage with Sarah the heiress of William Lacy, Esq. Thomas Rich of Hartrow, Esq., by his will, dated the 14th day of April, 1715 (proved August 30th, 1716), after desiring to be buried at Stogumber, gives to his mother-in-law, Mrs. Susannah Lacey, widow, £100, and appoints Sir John Trevelyan and others trustees, but no reference is made to any other member of the Lacy family. A greater portion of the Lacy property which had been acquired by the Rich family was ultimately given, by the will of John Rich, Esq., the son, to Mrs. Margaret Hay, the daughter of a former

clergyman of the parish of Clatworthy, a member of the ancient Scottish family of Hay. Through the marriage of David Yea, gentleman, with Dorothy Lacy, the land property of the Yea family was greatly increased. This is evident from the fact that David Yea, Esq., the eldest son of David Yea, gentleman, and Dorothy Lacy, mentions in general terms in his will, dated 6th July, 1730, (*Busby* 347) all his "messuages, farms, lands," &c., "situate within the several counties of Somerset, Devon and Dorset." By this marriage the Yea family became possessed of the manor, or rather, one of the manors of Stourminster, or, as it is now written, Sturminster-Marshall. This is in a great measure implied from the following account given of the parish and manor of Stourminster Marshal in Hutchin's modern edition of the "*History of the County of Dorset*," vol. iii., p. 36:—"As the three last villis seem to have a dependence on the manor of Stourminster Marshal, which underwent such a variety of divisions and alterations as can scarcely be traced, as appeared by a survey made in the middle of the seventeenth century. There were then six manors, four principal and two inferior ones. The first of the principal ones then belonged to Sir William Lacy of Somersetshire. Sir William Yea of Pyrland, Somerset, now holds a quarter of the liberty of Stourminster Marshal and of the hundreds of Hundredsbarrow and Loosebarrow, once Lacy's." In testamentary matters the parish of Sturminster-Marshall formerly had a "Peculiar" Court of its own, and in it the wills of all its inhabitants had to be

proved. Although the records of this Court which are now deposited in the Probate Court at Dorchester have been carefully examined, no evidence has been found to show that a will of any member of the Yea family was ever proved in that Court. The family perhaps only occasionally resided in the parish. This view may appear to be strengthened by the older remaining portions of Parish Registers containing no entries relating to the Yea family from which conclusions might be drawn. It is quite possible that this branch of the Lacy family, hailing as it originally did from the North of England, may have sprung from Ilbert de Lacy, a powerful baron, whose seat in the reign of William the Conqueror was at Pontefract Castle. Henry de Lacy, a descendant of this baron, who also lived in Yorkshire, is recorded in the *Liber Niger* (which was drawn up by order of Henry II. previously to his setting out upon his expedition against the Count of Toulouse) as being the holder of no less than sixty knight's fees. Previously to the reign of James I. it appears to have been the custom for the heads of ancient and worshipful houses to apprentice their younger sons to trades, and it is to that highly commendable practice that many noble houses at the present time, such as the Fitzwilliams, the Grevilles, and the Cravens are in a great measure indebted for their rank and influence. These names have been mentioned as being coeval with that of Lacy; and it is quite possible that John Lacy, Esq., the London merchant, may have entertained at his suburban



residence at Fulham not only Queen Elizabeth, but likewise many of her loyal and dutiful subjects, who by their business habits and thrift were unconsciously paving the way for the advancement of their descendants to positions of honour and trust. It may be here added that the Oxfordshire branch founded by John Lacy, Esq., who was buried at Putney about the year 1607, the brother to John Lacy, gentleman, whose son William died at Hartrow, died out with an heiress. It may perhaps be considered strange that two brothers, members of the Lacy family, should both have been called John, but it is by no means uncommon to find in wills made during the Tudor period reference made to sons who were then alive bearing the same christian name, in such terms as "my sonne John Blake the elder" and "my sonne John Blake the yonger," &c.

In the year 1724 Mrs. Mary Yea (*née* Hobbes) died. She must have been at that time a very old lady, because, as it has already been proved, she was married to Master David Yea at Wiveliscombe on the 17th day of July, 1655. Her will, which bears date the 5th day of November, 1723, and which was proved in the "Peculiar" Court of the Prebendary of Wiveliscombe in the month of September, 1724, (see Appendix U.) commences in the following words:—"In the name of God Amen I Mary Yea of Wiveliscombe in the County of Somerset Widow being aged but of sound and disposing mind memory and understanding praise be Almighty God therefore Do make and ordain this my last will

and testament in manner following." After the formal disposal of her soul and body, as was then customary in testamentary matters, she expresses her intentions in these words :—" *Imp.* I give and Bequeath unto my son David Yea gent. and Dorothy [*née* Lacy] his now wife and to each of them a mourning ring of the value of one guinea of gold each Item I give unto my Daughter M<sup>rs</sup> Mary Granger Wid<sup>o</sup> the sum of one Hundred Pounds To my grand daughter M<sup>rs</sup> Mary Haviland wife of Matthew Haviland gent. I give the sum of Fifty Pounds and to William Haviland and Mary Haviland son and daughter of the said Matthew Haviland I give the sum of One hundred Pounds apeice"; "to Petronell Gold my now servant maid Forty shillings if she be living with me at the time of my decease and not otherwise Item I give and bequeath unto my Daughter M<sup>rs</sup> Dorothy Chute wid. the sum of One thousand Pounds upon special trust" to "pay the same One thousand Pounds unto my granddaughter and her daughter Dorothy Chute," at the age of twenty years or at her marriage, "which of them shall first happen," "so as my said granddaughter Dorothy Chute be not married before she has attained the age of Sixteen years"; "Item I give unto my grandson M<sup>r</sup>. David Yea five Pounds." She gave all the residue of her personal estate, subject to the payment of her debts and funeral expenses, unto her "said daughter Dorothy Chute," whom she appointed sole executrix. The signing of the will was witnessed by Francis Collins, Mary Washer, and John Baker.

Administration of the personal estate of Mrs. Mary Yea which had not already been administered to, was granted to Francis Collins of Wiveliscombe, gentleman, on the 19th day of August, 1747. This gentleman, Francis Collins, was the second husband of Mistress Dorothy Yea, the second surviving daughter of David Yea, gentleman, and Mary his wife (*née* Hobbes). Matthew Haviland, gentleman, and Mary his wife, whom the testatrix speaks of as "my granddaughter," were the lineal ancestors of John de Havilland, Esq., F.S.A., who at the present time fills the office of York Herald. The family derives its name from a manor in the island of Guernsey, of which island the family were among its ancient Seigneurs.

As no entry of the burial of Mrs. Mary Yea is to be found in the Parish Register of Wiveliscombe it is quite possible that she may have been buried elsewhere. Between the years 1687 and 1695 no entries of any kind appear in the Wiveliscombe Parish Register, therefore it is no matter for surprise that the burial of the deceased lady's husband, David Yea, is not recorded.

David Yea, Esq., the husband of Dorothy Lacy, filled the office of High Sheriff of the county of Somerset in the year 1726. He died in or about the year 1730, for although no entry of his burial has been discovered, the fact of his death is well established in consequence of Letters of Administration of the personal estate and effects of David Yea, late of Wiveliscombe in the county of Somerset, having been granted by the Prerogative Court of

the Archbishop of Canterbury on the 30th of June, 1730, to David Yea, son of the deceased, and Dorothea Yea, widow.

David Yea, Esq., the son and heir of David Yea, Esq., and Dorothy his wife (*née* Lacy)—in fact the only issue of that marriage—married on the 19th of January, 1720, at the parish Church of Brompton Ralph,\* Mistress Joan Brewer, the heiress of Nathaniel Brewer, Esq., who is described in the Pedigree of the Yea family as being of the parish of Tolland in the county of Somerset. It was, however, at their Manor House of Stone, in the parish of Brompton Ralph, that the Brewer family chiefly resided; that in Tolland being apparently additional property and residence subsequently acquired. The Parish Registers of Tolland previously to the reign of Queen Anne are missing, but no entries of either the baptisms, marriages or burials of the Brewer family are to be found in the Bishop's Transcripts of the Registers of this parish at Wells. An entry in the Parish Register of Tolland in the year 1729, however, records the death of Nathaniel Brewer, gentleman, and his burial at Brompton Ralph. The Parish Register of Brompton Ralph on the other hand is full of entries relating to this family, commencing with the marriage in the year 1656 of Valentine Bruer with Joane Alan of Stogumber.†

\* "Anno Dom. 1720—Mr David Yea married Mrs Joan Brewer Janry 19."

† "1656—The publicacion of mariage betweene Valentine Bruer and Joane Alan of Stogumber was the Second day of November & the ninth."

"The twenth seauen day of Nouember valentine bruer of Brompton Ralfe & Joane Alan of Stogumber were Joyned in matrimony."

*Brompton Ralph Parish Register.*

This family was a branch of a very ancient one which had lived for many generations at Chard in the same county. In the parish Church of Chard is to be seen at the present time a handsome mural monument to the memory of Doctor William Brewer, an eminent physician, who died at Chard on the 24th of July, 1618. This monument, upon the visit of the Somersetshire Archæological Society to the ancient Borough of Chard in the month of August, 1882, attracted a great deal of attention. Collinson, in his "*History of Somersetshire*," vol. ii, p. 473, gives an exceedingly elaborate account of it, as follows :—" At the north-east corner of the south transept is an antique and stately mural monument of various kinds of marble and porphyry. The middle division contains two arched recesses, in which are the effigies of the persons to whose memory it was erected, kneeling at an altar face to face, their hands in a suppliant posture resting on the altar. Behind the man are six sons, behind the woman five daughters, all kneeling in the same attitude. They are all in black robes and long ruffs; the woman's robe comes over her head like a modern calash. On each side of these recesses is a round column with a Corinthian capital gilt. These pillars support the cornice, at the corners of which stand obelisks; between them is a divided semicircular pediment, on the sides of which recline two angels with golden hair, one holding a dolphin, the other a dove and palm branch. In the interval are the arms :—GULES *two bends wavy* OR. Underneath is this inscription :—' Here lieth interred

(expecting their Saviour) the bodyes of William Brewer of Chard, phisitian, and Deanes his wife, who living forty years in happy wedlock, in full age departed this life; she dying 8<sup>o</sup> Nov. 1614, and hee 24<sup>o</sup> July, 1618, having issue only six sons and five daughters all men and women growne and all comforts to them.

Lectori.

Mourn not for us, whom death translates to glory  
 But for thyselfe—whose lif's a dying storie.  
 Gazers muse not, now you these stones behold,  
 Viewing these sable lines in-set with gold;  
 It's not to keepe alive the memorie  
 Of those whose ashes heere interred lye,  
 Whose godlye lives yet live, and shall for aye  
 When these hard stones are moulder'd quite away.  
 Their children's zeale well weighing parents' care  
 And Christian love to all while breathing ayre,  
 With grateful harts most thankfully erect  
 Vnto their ashes dear, this monument.' "

There is just one fact that Collinson does not mention in his account of this rather sumptuous monument, and it is this—that while the greater number of the children are represented kneeling in a devout manner the one behind the other, the last child behind one of the parents is represented in the act of turning around, looking at the congregation as it were, in a very grotesque manner. Whether this was done purposely by the artist in order

to relieve the group from an air of monotony and stiffness, or whether he had become just at the finishing moment irrepressibly comic, it is rather difficult to determine. One of the sons who is supposed to be represented in the group was at the time of the Herald's Visitation of London, 1633-4, a citizen of London carrying on business in Bartholomew Lane, within the precincts of Broad Street Ward. John Brewer—for that was his name—sets down his descent from his father, William Brewer of Chard in the county of Somerset, "Phisitian," and Deanes his wife, daughter of Mr. Baker of Crewkerne in the same county. In his, John Brewer's, pedigree he accounts for five sons only, not six as stated by the inscription on the Brewer monument in the parish Church of Chard; *viz.*: Peter, son and heir, William, Thomas Christopher, and himself (John). This John Brewer, gentleman, had previously to the year 1634 married Mary the daughter of Ralph Grove of the Temple and of Canterbury, the issue of which marriage consisted of two sons, John and Francis, and a daughter called Mary. He was able to prove to the satisfaction of Sir William Segar, Knt. Garter, his right to bear "the grand old name of gentleman" by producing his coat-of-arms, which Sir William "testified under" his "hand" as being:—*GULES two bends a wavy OR, a chief vairé with a martlet for a difference.* It will be observed that this coat is the same as that which the Yea family quartered with its own and that of Lacy in right of marriage with Joan the heiress of Nathaniel Brewer, gentleman. There is a

difference between the coat-of-arms as described by Collinson as being on the Brewer monument and that exhibited by John Brewer, gentleman, in the City of London Visitation, 1633-4, *viz.*: that the latter shows an augmentation in the shape of a chief vairé which the former does not. The former coat-of-arms is without doubt by far the most ancient, and its plainness is the best proof of its antiquity. The crest adopted by the family appears to have been *a syren (charged with a martlet for a difference) her human part proper her tail scaled* OR and GULES divided by parallel lines wavy. The family of Brewer has from very remote times been connected with the county of Somerset. Lord William Brewer, or de la Bruyère as his name was sometimes written, a powerful baron and favourite of Richard I., held considerable possessions in Somerset, among which were the Manor and Castle of Bridgwater and Isle Brewers.

Having thus endeavoured to give a general account of the Brewer family, we will return to the subject of its connection with the Yea family. For some considerable time after his marriage, and during his father's lifetime, David Yea, Esq., and Joan his wife (*née* Brewer) appear to have resided in the parish of Brompton Ralph, where the following children were baptized: David,\* Thomas,† Mary,‡ William§ (afterwards Sir William

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\* "1721—David son of Mr. David Yea & Joane his wife the 6th of December."

† "1723—Thomas son of Mr. David Yea & Joan his wife the 19th of April."

‡ "1724—Mary daughter of Mr. David Yea & Joan his wife 19th March."

§ "1727—William son of David Yea Esq. & Joan his wife the 26 of May."



Yea, Bart.), Dorothy,\* Jenny,† Betty,‡ and Robert.§ Of the four sons of David Yea, Esq., and Joan his wife (*née* Brewer), William survived his two elder brothers, and they dying without issue, he consequently became heir to his father's landed estates in Somerset, Devon and Dorset, by virtue of the limitations contained in his father's will, dated the 6th day of July, 1730. (See Appendix V.) By that will—to which Letters of Administration with the will annexed were granted by the Prerogative Court of the Archbishop of Canterbury on the 13th December, 1751 (*Busby* 347), to William Yea, the testator's son and principal legatee; his mother, Dorothy Yea, and the other executors having died in the testator's lifetime, and David Yea, the eldest son and residuary legatee, having first renounced—David Yea, Esq., gave to Matthew Haviland of Wellesford in the parish of Langford Budville in the county of Somerset, and John Webber of Badialton [Bathealton] in the same county, gentlemen, all his messuages, farms, lands, &c., situate within the several counties of Somerset, Devon and Dorset, to the use of his eldest son, David Yea. in tail male, with remainder over as to all his lands in the parish of Brompton Ralph in default of male issue to his son Thomas Yea, with remainder to Thomas Yea, his second son, with an ultimate remainder in

\* "1729—Dorothy daughter of David Yea Esq. & Joan his wife the 26 of May."

† "1730—Jenny daughter of David Yea Esq. & Joan his wife the 17th of Feby."

‡ "1733—Betty daughter of David Yea Esq. & Joan his wife the 21st of Septr."

§ "1735—Robert son of David Yea Esq. & Joan his wife the 22nd October."

*Brompton Ralph Parish Register.*

default of issue to his son William Yea, his heirs, &c.; and the testator (David Yea, Esq.) from his own decease and the decease of his son David without male issue, gave the fee and inheritance of all his other lands to his third son William, in tail male, &c. The testator, after making bequests to his mother, whom he styles "my honored Dorothy Yea, widow," and to his aunts, Mary Granger, widow, and Dorothy Collins, gave legacies to his daughters Mary and Dorothy, and to "every child or children" which should be born at the time of his decease, or afterwards; and he appointed his mother, Dorothy Yea (*née* Lacy), Matthew Haviland and John Webber executors in trust, and directed that "my body to be interred in a descent and handsome manner in the churchyard of Wiveliscombe as near to my late father as possible." The witnesses to this will were Francis Collins, Humphrey Hancock, and John Crudge. As already stated, David Yea, Esq., died in the year 1751,\* and shortly afterwards, in the year 1758, his eldest son David also died. Thomas, the second son, had previously died during his father's lifetime,† so likewise had the fourth son Robert,‡ and consequently William Yea, the future baronet, remained the only surviving son. Of the daughters only three survived their father, one of whom, Miss Dorothy, married Charles Winter, Esq., of Court House, Bishop's

\* "1751—Mr. David Yea Senr. October 25th."

† "1738—Thomas ye son of Mr. David Yea & Joan his wife April 28th."

‡ "1743—Robert & Sarah ye son & Daughtr. of Mr. David Yea April 29th."

Lydeard, in the county of Somerset. This lady died, according to an announcement in the *Taunton Courier*, in the month of November, 1813. She is in this notice erroneously described as having been a daughter of the late Sir William Yea, Bart.,\* whereas, as it has been already shewn, she was his sister, baptized (according to the entry in the Parish Register of Brompton Ralph) on the 9th of April, 1729, two years subsequently to the baptism of her brother Sir William.

It was in all probability during the lifetime of David Yea, Esq., (father of Sir William Yea, Bart.) that the Manor House of Oakhampton was pulled down and rebuilt. The date upon the water-pipes (which also bear the crest of the family—a *talbot passant*) is 1734. The character of the building appears to be strictly in accordance with the style of architecture which prevailed during the early part of the Georgian period. Situated on the side of a slope, at one time thickly surrounded with trees, it is altogether a handsome and commodious structure. The underground cellar, which is coextensive with its entire length, and which is arched over with bricks, is perhaps the most unique of its kind to be found in the West of England. The present house was possibly commenced soon after the 6th day of March, 1730, at which time a new lease of the manor of Oakhampton was

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\* "On Sunday last, at Bishop's Lydeard, after a few days' illness, in the 85th year of her age, Mrs. Dorothy Winter, relict of Charles Winter, Esq., of Court House in the same parish, and daughter of the late Sir William Yea, Bart., of Pyrland House, near Taunton."—*The Taunton Courier*, Dec. 2, 1813.

granted by the Dean and Chapter of Wells to David Yea, Esq., the elder, for the lives of David Yea the elder, David Yea the younger and William Yea, his sons. The house, garden and premises at Oakhampton occupy at the present time six acres of land. This is twice the size of the area occupied by the house and premises at the time of the Survey made by order of the Parliament in the month of September, 1649 (See Appendix K.), which Survey was signed by William Richardson, Alexander Lawson and Richard Combe, Commissioners, and countersigned by William Webb, Supervisor General. The description of the house and premises appear therein as follows:—"All that Messuage or ffarme howse commonly called Oakehamptoune, consisting of a large Hall a Kitchen two larders a Buttery fve lodging Chambers And a Brewhowse w<sup>th</sup> chambers ou' [over] it a little Court yard a Woodhowse And a ffold yard conteyning in the whole by estimation  $\frac{A}{3} \cdot \frac{R}{0} \cdot \frac{P}{0}$  £v. After this statement follows the names of all the fields of which the farm was composed, with their acreage. The Commissioners further stated that the rental of the entire property was £5 1s. 0d., and that it was worth £10 per annum. This £5 1s. 0d. rental represented of course the head or chief rent. The entire farm at the present time consists of three hundred and sixty-two acres, three roods and thirteen perches. The valuable strata of slate must of course be included in any valuation of the property.

There is a very interesting letter existing among the papers

belonging to the Yea family, which was written about this time. It is a letter written by a Doctor living at Dulverton, on "Octr y<sup>e</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 1743," with his prescription on the second page for "David Yea, Esq." The letter and prescription are as follows:—

"Dulverton Octr y<sup>e</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 1743

Sir,

I have duly considered what you mentioned to me of the disorder of your head and have sent what I hope will do you Service by using it as on the other side directed. When this ended or as occasion requires please to let me hear from you and I will advise what further needful and at all times do the best to Serve you and family in the power of, Sir,

Y<sup>r</sup>. most obed<sup>t</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

N. Poole.

Directions for M<sup>r</sup>. Yea.

Be pleased to take one of the pills every second third or fourth night going to bed and take some broth or Organ Tea the next morning. The mornings between please to take fifty of the Stomach drops fasting in a little mild beer and take thirty of the cephalic drops at ten in the forenoon and at four in the afternoon in a little mild beer or wine and water and take some of them at any other time when the disorder of the head affects you.

This I hope will releive you from the Giddiness of the head without bringing on the Gout or the humors again to any great degree in the leg.

If the pill works pretty much take it only every third or fourth night if but little take it every other night."

This letter, sealed with the crest of a *lion rampant*, is addressed  
 “To David Yea Esq<sup>r</sup>  
 att Oakhampton  
 in Wiveliscombe.”

David Yea, Esq., for whom this prescription was prepared, was evidently a gentleman who weighed well the possible contingencies of the future. There was, he may probably have anticipated, just the chance of one of his sons outliving all the others, and it is therefore no matter for surprise that he should (as we have already seen by his will, dated the 6th day of July, 1730) have provided accordingly.

William Yea, Esq., the third and eventually the only surviving son of David Yea, Esq., and Joan his wife—their eldest son David having subsequently, as already shewn, died in the month of December, 1758, unmarried—married on the 1st day of January, 1756, Julia, the eldest daughter of Sir George Trevelyan, Bart.,\*

\* *A Register Book for Marriages—Parish of Nettlecombe, Somerset.*

The year 1754, 1755, 1756, &c. &c.

“William Yea Esq<sup>r</sup> of the parish of Wiveliscombe and Miss Julia Trevelyan of the parish of Nettlecombe were married in this Church by Licence with the consent of Parents this first day of January in the year One thousand seven hundred and fifty-six by me

JOHN RUGG, Rector.

This Marriage was	}	W. H. YEA
solemnized between us		JULIA TREVELYAN

In the presence of WM. MOW  
 WILLIAM JENINGS.”

“I certify this to be a true copy of the Register of Marriages for the Parish of Nettlecombe, Somerset.

Feb. 12, 1880.

(Signed) H. F. SEYMOUR, Rector.”

of Nettlecombe in the county of Somerset, and of Julia his wife, daughter of Sir Walter Calverley, Bart., of Calverley in the county of York, and eventually heiress to her brother, Sir Walter Calverley Blackett, Bart. (Arms : SABLE *an inescucheon with an orle of eight owls* SABLE). William Yea, Esq. (afterwards Sir William Yea, Bart.) was at the time of his marriage in the 29th year of his age ; and, from the high position which the Trevelyan family had taken for many centuries previously in Somerset, Devon and Cornwall, together with the antiquity and ancient fame of her mother's family, the Calverleys of Calverley in the county of York (See *Visitations of Yorkshire in the years 1584-5 and 1612*, published by the Harleian Society, page 9), he was without doubt considered at the time a very fortunate young gentleman. According to Collinson (*History of Somersetshire*, vol. iii, p. 150) the parish of Nettlecombe, where the Trevelyans have been seated for many centuries, lies on the south side of the parish of St. Decuman's, "near that part of Brendon Hill called *Raleigh's-down*, and watered by a rivulet which, passing by Orchard-Wyndham and Williton, falls at Donniford into the sea." At a place called Knap Dane in this parish several bushels of human bones were discovered, which were supposed to be the remains of a party of Danes who landed at Watchet in the year 918 and who were slaughtered by the inhabitants. The manor of Nettlecombe is referred to, Collinson informs us, in the *Domesday Book* thus :--"The King holds *Netelcumbe*.

Goduin [the son of Herold] held it in the time of King Edward and gelded for two hides and three virgates of land. The arable is twelve carucates. Thereof one virgate and a half is in demesne and there are two carucates, and three servants, and fifteen villanes, and four cottagers, with seven ploughs. There are six acres of meadow, and one hundred acres of pasture, and fifty acres of wood. It renders.....pounds twelve shillings of white money.” By what means or at what time Nettlecombe became transferred from the Crown to a subject is rather difficult to determine. Collinson states that “In the time of Henry II., John, son of Gilbert, marshal of England, granted this manor to Hugh de Raleigh of Raleigh in the County of Devon, and to his heirs, to be held by the service of finding a soldier for two whole months in time of war, and forty days in time of peace, in such manner as barons usually did their services; covenanting that if he could not make a sufficient title that he would provide him a faithful exchange elsewhere; and declaring that in confirmation of this, his two sons, John and Gilbert, had pledged themselves to observe it, and his other two sons, Walter and William, were parties to the Grant. In consideration thereof the said Hugh de Raleigh gave the said John Marshal eighty marks of silver and a sorel nag; to his lady an ounce of gold; to his son Gilbert a horse and two dogs; to his son John a talent; and to his other son Walter another talent of gold. This deed was attested and confirmed under the great seal of King Henry II. by Reginald



earl of Cornwall, Humphrey de Bohun, William de Botreaux, and others. Notwithstanding these deeds, John Marshal, son of John the first grantor, extorted the sum of one hundred and forty pounds for a confirmation of his father's grant, and Gilbert, another son of John Marshal, had forty pounds of silver and a gilt cup for his right."\* Shortly afterwards Hugh de Raleigh—from whom the Raleighs of Raleigh in the parish of Pilton, in the county of Devon, and those of Warwickshire, were descended—granted the manor of Nettlecombe to Warine de Raleigh, whom he styled his nephew. To Warine de Raleigh succeeded his son Ralph, who in the 17th year of King John, having taken part with the barons against the king, had his lands seized. Part of them appears to have been given to William Briewer, who, in consideration of twenty marks of silver, conveyed them to Warine de Raleigh, a brother to Ralph, to be held by the service of one knight's fee. About this time an important branch of the Raleigh family migrated from Nettlecombe. It was no less than the lineal ancestor of the famous Sir Walter Raleigh; and this fact is fully borne out by Risdon, the Devonshire Antiquary (who was for some considerable time contemporary with this renowned Devonshire worthy), in his description of the manor of Smallridge in the parish of Axminster, as follows:—"About the time of king Henry the third, sir Wymond Raleigh, a younger brother, branched out of the Nettlecombe house, began his dwelling there, whose posterity

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\* Collinson, Vol. iii., p. 536, quoting Palmer *ex Autog. ap. Nettlecombe*.

continued their dwelling in this place until Henry the eighth's time, and were knights, and men of very great respect. Mr. Hooker hath laboured to extract the descent of this family out of divers families of this name that have borne several coats-of-arms; but Raleigh, of Smallridge, ever since their coming from Nettlecombe in Somersetshire, continued his habitation either here, or at Fardell. One of this family, being taken prisoner in France, at his return built a chapel here to the memory of St. Leonard, because he was delivered on St. Leonard's day, and in the same hung up his target, with the records of the foundation of that, which was given by a priest of Axminster to the late Sir Walter Raleigh, Knt." A tradition existed that this member of the family, having effected his escape from France, and without either oar or sail drifted in an open boat from thence across to the mouth of the Axe, being carried up by the tide to Smallridge, subsequently on the spot where he landed built a chapel, in which he not only hung up his target or shield, but likewise his fetters. All of these different families of Raleigh appear however to have sprung from one common ancestor, *viz.*, Raleigh of Raleigh in the parish of Pilton, in the county of Devon. This was a family of the highest standing as far back as the reign of Henry II., when Hugh de Raleigh, to whom the manor of Nettlecombe was first granted, was Sheriff of the county of Devon from the 7th to the 13th year of the reign of that monarch. Seven years previously the Shrievalty was hereditary in the family of Baldwin of Briony;

Adeliza or Alice, the daughter of Baldwin, who died in the first year of Henry II., being the last hereditary Sheriff of the county of Devon, she styling herself Vice-Commitissa of the county. The Nettlecombe branch of the Raleigh family continued its dwelling at that place until about the reign of Henry IV., marrying in the meantime the heiress of Le Tort and the co-heiress of Le Bret. Jane, the daughter of Sir John Raleigh, Knt., and eventually co-heiress to her brother, Simon Raleigh, the last of this branch, married John Wcalesbury or Wcalesborough, of Wcalesborough in the county of Cornwall. Nettlecombe remained in the Wcalesborough family for two descents; John Trevelyan, Esq., of Trevelyan in the parish of St. Veep, near Fowey, in the county of Cornwall, having married Elizabeth, the daughter and eventually the heiress of Thomas Wcalesborough, Esq., the last heir male, in the year 1452.\* Thomas Wcalesborough died in the year 1482, for it was in that year that Maude his wife paid twenty marks for a relief upon the death of her

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\* "Also the seid Thomas shal make or do to be made before the fest of East' next comyng aft' the seid mariage had as sure estate by fyne or otherwyse as the seid John can lawfully devyse by his counsell of the rev'sion of such landes and tentes of the which Symond Raleigh was seised in his domene as in fee or in fee taille or any other pson or psones to his use within the Shires of Som'set Dorset and Devon to be had aft' the decesse of Johane late the wyf of the seid Symond to the seid John and Elizabeth," &c. See *Trevelyan Papers*, page 37, containing a copy of the Agreement of Marriage, dated the 19th day of July, 1452, between "Thomas Wcalesburgh, Squyer on that oon partie and John Trevelyan, Squyer on that other partie," whereby "it is agreed and accorded betwene the seid parties that the seid John on this half the fest of Cristmasse next comyng aft' this psent

husband (see *Trevelyan Papers*, page 86); and in a pardon granted by Richard III. to John Trevelyan, gentleman, on the 23rd December, 1484, the latter is described as "John Trevilian Junior late of Netilcombe in the County of Somerset gentilman otherwise called John Trevilian junior son and heir of John Trevilian senior late of Netylcombe in the County of Somerset Esquire" (see *Trevelyan Papers*, page 89). It is therefore pretty clear that the Trevelyan family first began to reside at Nettlecombe sometime in the reign of Edward IV. They have married the heiresses of Bowes, Cockworthy, Willoughby and Calverley-Blacket. The marriage with the heiress of Cockworthy gave to the family the right to quarter the arms of Champernowne, Hamley, Talbot, Valletort and Cornwall. The family of Cornwall having been lineally descended from Edmund, Earl of Cornwall; the Trevelyan family is therefore of royal descent. The arms of the Trevelyan family are :—GULES, *a demi-horse* ARGENT, *issuing out of water in base proper*; quartering (1) ARGENT, *three bends* GULES *within a*

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shal marye Elizabeth dought' and oon of the heirs of the seid Thomas at suche tyme and place before the seid fest as the seid parties mow accorde." Also letter from John Trevelyan, Esq., to the Duke of Suffolk, dated in the year 1463, wherein he (John Trevelyan) speaks of "Thomas Whalesborough fader unto Elizabeth his wyfe hys anncestres that is to saye sone to Jane, doghter to Sir John Ralyghe Knyght," &c., page 81; and also at page 82, in the letter from Edward IV. to the Duke of Suffolk, wherein he refers to "our welbelovyd servant and tenant John Trevelyan Esquyer," who had long done suit for certain lands in Wales, the inheritance of his wife, entailed on her "as heire to Sir John a Ralegh, knyght, and to Symond Ralegh."

*bordure SABLE bezantée* [Whalesbury]; (2) *ERMINE, three bows GULES* [Bowes]; (3) *GULES, five lozenges in bend ARGENT* [Raleigh]; (4) *ARGENT, a chevron SABLE between three cocks GULES* [Cockworthy]; (5) *GULES, a saltire vari between twelve billets OR* [Champernowne]; (6) *ARGENT, three talbots passant SABLE* [Hamley]; (7) *ARGENT, a chevron SABLE between three talbots passant SABLE* [Talbot]; (8) *ARGENT, three bends GULES within a bordure SABLE bezantée* [Valletort]; (9) *ARGENT, a lion rampant GULES within a bordure SABLE bezantée* [Cornwall]. Crest:—*Two arms embowed, vested AZURE, the hands proper, holding up a bezant.* (See “*The Visitation of the County of Devon for the year 1620,*” page 286, edited by the Rev. Doctor Colby). It will be observed that these arms were impaled by Sir William Yea, the first baronet, with two additional quarterings which have not been identified, with those of his own family. The arms of the Trevelyan family are stated to owe their origin to the tradition that one of its early members swam on horseback from a place called the Seven Stones to the Land’s End; these rocks are separated from the main land by nearly twenty miles of stormy sea. The Trevelyan family has intermarried with the ancient families of Pollard, Fortescue of Weir, Pole of Shute in the county of Devon (of which family the celebrated Devonshire Antiquary and Genealogist, Sir William Pole, was a member), and Luttrell of Dunster Castle.

It has recently been the custom to expatiate upon the ups and downs of the English nobility; but here we have an instance of

a family which has been seated in the county of Somerset in the female line for seven hundred years, and in the male line for more than four hundred years, with the same rank, influence, and power. They were men of mark in the county as far back as the Wars of the Roses, and in the present reign the family has produced such eminent statesmen as Sir Charles Trevelyan, Bart., K.C.B., formerly Governor of Madras, through whose advocacy and energy the purchase system in the British Army was abolished, and likewise the Right Honourable gentleman who until lately discharged the somewhat arduous and difficult duties which are incidental to the office of Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

William Yea, Esq., who married Miss Trevelyan, acquired not long after his marriage, by purchase, that which was at that time copyhold property belonging to the manor of Taunton Deane, situated in the parish of Taunton Saint James, known as Pyrland.

William Walter, the eldest son of William Yea, Esq., and Julia his wife, was born on the 8th day of October, 1756, at Oakhampton in the parish of Wiveliscombe, and baptized June 22nd, 1757.\* (See Appendix W.)

It was probably about the year 1758 that William Yea, Esq. (afterwards Sir William Yea, Bart.), built, or rather re-built, the

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\* *Baptisms*, 1757.—“William Walter Son of William Yea Esq. and Julia his wife June 2—” [This portion of the Register has been cut off].

*Wiveliscombe Parish Register.*

house now known as Pyrland Hall, in which he began to reside either in that or at the beginning of the succeeding year, because we find upon referring to the Parish Register of Taunton St. James that Lacy, his second son, was born January 21st, 1759, at Pyrland in the parish of St. James in Taunton (see Appendix X.); and from what can be gathered from the same source his brother-in-law, John Trevelyan, Esq. (afterwards Sir John Trevelyan, Bart.), and he at one time occupied Pyrland Hall jointly.

In the same year (1759) the antiquity and territorial wealth of the Yea family, together with the high character and personal qualifications of William Yea, Esq., were considered sufficient inducements for George II. to raise him to that position to which he and his family were in every respect entitled; and among the "List of Promotions for the year 1759," taken from the "*London Gazette*," as quoted in the "*Gentleman's Magazine*," Vol. xxix., page 294, we find the following:—

"Whitehall, June 16.

The king has been pleased to Grant unto William Yea, of Pyrland, in the parish of Taunton St. James, in the County of Somerset, Esquire, and his heirs male, the dignity of a baronet of Great Britain."

The fact that Sir William Yea was then only in his thirty-third year amounts to substantial proof that he was a young gentleman of good natural parts, address and influence. Sir William, who served the office of High Sheriff for the county of Somerset in the

year 1760, was on one occasion a candidate in the Conservative interest for the representation of the Borough of Taunton in Parliament; but for certain reasons not known at the present time he deemed it politic to withdraw from his candidature without going to the poll.\*

Besides William Walter Yea, Esq., their eldest son, Sir William and Lady Julia, his wife, had several other children, *viz.*: Lacy, born 14th December, 1757, and who was buried 10th June, 1758; Lacy Yea, Esq., their third son, who was born at Pyrland on the 21st of January, 1759, and baptized June 24th, 1759, at Wasing in Berkshire†; George Yea, Esq., the fourth, and third surviving, son, who was born at Pyrland on the 1st of April, 1760, and baptized on the 29th of April in the same year‡; and Thomas Frere, the youngest son, who was born on the 12th of May, 1766, baptized the 20th of June following, and died unmarried.§ A daughter named Louisa died unmarried, and there seems also to have been a son named Robert, who may possibly have died young,

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\* See Toulmin's "*History of Taunton*," page 84, edition 1791.

† "Lacy Son of the said Sir William and Lady Yea was born Jan. 21, 1759, at Pyrland in the parish of St. James in Taunton and baptized June 24, 1759, at Wasing in Berkshire."

‡ "George Son of the said Sr. William and Lady Yea was born Apr. 1, 1760, at Pyrland aforesaid and baptized Apr. 29, 1760."

§ "Thomas Frere Son of the said Sir William and Lady Yea was born May 12, 1766 at Pyrland aforesaid and baptized June 20, 1766."

*The Parish Register of Taunton St. James. Burials, 1777.*—"Thomas son of Sr. William Yea 14th Octr."

*Wiveliscombe Parish Register.*



inasmuch as he is not referred to in the family pedigree.\* Lacy Yea, Esq., the second surviving son, resided chiefly at the old family residence of the Yea family—Oakhampton House, in the parish of Wiveliscombe. He married Miss Margaret Duff, who belonged to an ancient Scottish family, but died without issue at Oakhampton House in the month of January, 1811.† George Yea, Esq., the third surviving son of Sir William, who lived and died unmarried, resided in the parishes of Chipstable and Wiveliscombe. His death took place in the same year as that of his brother Lacy.‡ He must have been a very sincere friend, for we find that two of the Messrs. Hancock, of Wiveliscombe, were very handsomely remembered by him in his will.

Among the numerous documents and letters in the possession of a lady member of the Yea family, is one written and addressed by a certain person named Robert Phillips, on the 25th April, 1741,

“To

Mr. Robt. Phillips

In Wiveliscombe

Near Taunton,

Somerset.”

It is a letter written by a son to his father from one of the last

\* *Burials*, 1770.—“Robert Son of Sr. William & Julia Yea 13th June.”

*Wiveliscombe Parish Register.*

† “*Died*—Tuesday, after an illness of only a few days, Lacy Yea, Esq., of Okehampton House, Somerset.”—*The Taunton Courier*, January 17, 1811.

*Burials*, 1811.—“Lacey Yea Esqr. Jany. 25th.”—*Wiveliscombe Parish Register.*

‡ “October 17. *Died*. On Wednesday se’night, at Wiveliscombe, George Yea, Esq.”—*The Taunton Courier*, 1811.

places that a father would care to receive a "holiday letter" from a son, *viz.*, the King's Bench Prison. The following is a copy:—

" Kingsbench 25<sup>th</sup> April 1741

Hon<sup>d</sup> ffather,

Hoping these will find you Perfectly Sound and well yours I Rec<sup>d</sup> dated y<sup>e</sup>. 24<sup>th</sup> febr<sup>y</sup> and have waited with Patience ever Since Sister was with me Thursday and told me y<sup>t</sup> [that] you had sent her a letter y<sup>t</sup>. Coss Edw: Phillips was In London and She had made Inquiry after him but he is not In Town and if he ware he wo<sup>d</sup> not pay y<sup>e</sup>. Money because Robin had gave him y<sup>e</sup>. Money She was Indebted to him and you had not paid him. Sister said Edw: had been in London she understud as soon as his Brother died but Stayed but one day in Town and y<sup>t</sup>. She did not See him Sister said y<sup>t</sup>. Brother Rackstraw wo<sup>d</sup> have her write you Ahoping Letter for allways writing y<sup>t</sup>. you will send Money on Bills to town and never design it but make a fool of him and every body els, for if you had aney mind to send you might have got Bills as Well as Mr. Burton &c. Sister sayes y<sup>t</sup>. if 5<sup>s</sup>. wo<sup>d</sup> get me out he will not do it, pray Consider my Confinement my Poverty and the Deplorable Condition y<sup>t</sup>. I am in it all most drives me to dispare when I think on my hard cause to lay In Prison 13 Months for my ffees and y<sup>t</sup> all last year I might have had 10<sup>s</sup>. p week at y<sup>e</sup>. Oyl Coller [colour] and now my Sister sayes I might have 12<sup>s</sup>. but they will not stay above one week longer for me but put another man In my Room because

you did not send as you write my friend Cannings and y<sup>e</sup>. Lawer [Lawyer] do keep y<sup>e</sup>. Supperseedes [Supersedeas]\* till you send y<sup>e</sup>. money up but Cannings Sayes y<sup>e</sup>. moment you Send he will bring it. I am Sure M<sup>r</sup>. Yea Will lend you 8<sup>l</sup>. or 10<sup>l</sup>. and let M<sup>r</sup>. Hewat or M<sup>r</sup>. Brune Give him their Note for y<sup>e</sup>. Money if you tell my Hard Cause to M<sup>r</sup>. Yea and y<sup>t</sup>. y<sup>e</sup>. money is to gett me out of prison he will do it. I dont dout but he and his mother to knows ware I am tho they may not take aney Notice of it to you. You may Send up y<sup>e</sup>. money by the Coach or Waggon and not wait for a Bill pray let me have your Anser as Soon as posseble you can and Direct as before to M<sup>r</sup>. George Canning's next door to the Blew Perriwige in Market Lane near Pall Mall St. James. You can not fail of getting money now at y<sup>e</sup>. ffair so I dont expect to hear from you till after y<sup>e</sup>. fair and than I hope you will not fail sending if tis but 6<sup>l</sup>. or 8<sup>l</sup>. So I pray God to Strengthen you with my Duty Self and Unkle Richards and Mother and my Love and Sarvis to all friends ware due from your ever Dutyfull Son and Sarvant till Death

Rob<sup>t</sup>. Phillips."

Upon receipt of this letter the father without doubt had some talk with Mr. David Yea respecting the unfortunate position in which his (Mr. Robert Phillips') son was placed, but perhaps in consequence of not having the letter with him at the time was unable to give so clear and satisfactory an account as could have been desired. We therefore find the letter re-directed—

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\* This was a Writ formerly issued to stay proceedings in an action at law.

“ To Daud Yea Esq<sup>r</sup>.

at Oake Hampton

These,”

with the following letter written in a very neatly formed hand on the back of it :—

“ Sir,

I have sent you my son's Letter as you may see what he writes for & he is in hopes that you will stand his freind to let me haue 6 or 8<sup>l</sup> to send to him for I cannot doe it my selfe & as you haue bin so good to stand by me I hope you shall be puntialy paid for I neuer Borroued any mony of any pearson but tucke care to pay them. Let me Liue or Dye my Trustees shall see you paid & euery body else your Compliance on my Sons account shall euer be acknoledg & you will very much Oblidge your most Obediant & Humble Saruant

Rob<sup>t</sup>. Phillips Sen<sup>r</sup>.

if you will doe it send this back & I will giue you my note ther will be next Month prity well up 20<sup>l</sup>. from Mr. Hewet & Brand. I have an opertunity of sending it next week from Exon if I had it.”

Whether Mr. Yea saw his way clear to advance the money in order that this unfortunate young man might have been released from “durance vile” must in the absence of positive proof remain a mystery. The probability is that he did not, inasmuch as he kept the letter, not sending it back as requested by the father in case

he should have thought fit to advance the money. It is almost needless to observe that David Yea, Esq., to whom Mr. Phillips senior addressed his letter, was the father of Sir William Yea, Bart. This letter has been kindly lent since the earlier portion of this History has been printed.

Sir William and Lady Julia Yea, as will be naturally supposed, during the time they lived at Pyrland were on friendly terms with most of the leading families in the neighbourhood of Taunton and Bridgwater, among whom was Sir Charles Kemeys-Tynte, Bart., of Halswell, the lineal ancestor of Colonel C. K. Kemeys-Tynte, who still resides at that place. The following letter from Sir Charles K. Tynte, in the year 1760, to Sir William Yea, although written respecting an unpleasant topic, is sufficiently indicative of the good feeling which then existed between the Tynte and Yea families :—

“ Sir,

I must inform you that the neighbourhood are determined to pull down, if not soon removed, the gates and hedges that obstruct the Public roads leading from Dr Crosses Barn ; Public roads I must call them, being well acquainted with them near forty years ; But there are many old men that will take their oaths that they have been employ'd upwards of Sixty years, at times, to repair these roads ; I was desired by my Neighbours to view these obstructions. Yesterday I did, and I now as a Friend advise you not to hesitate to take away (if they were put there

by you) every gate and not molest the people that will be sent to do their statute labour in repairing these Roads for the Public service.

I will make no apology for giving you this intelligence for you must know I write this in hopes to keep you from the claws of the Law, and to shew you that I am

Your Friend & humble Servant,

Cha. K. Tynte.

Halswell July y<sup>e</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 1760."

(On the back). "Lady Tynte join with me in our compliments to yourself and to Lady Yea."

Another interesting letter received by Sir William Yea from a Mr. Stevens, who was apparently a lawyer practising at Bridgewater, in the year 1778, having reference to a case of assault which had taken place at Oakhampton House, is well worth recording:—

"Sir,

It is highly necessary you sho<sup>d</sup> be here; and I beg you'l be so obliging as to inform me when is Master Yea's birth day, in order to ascertain M<sup>rs</sup> Chorley the particular day she was assaulted by Edwards who is now waiting here for an Indictment but cannot take it up not knowing the very day she received the abuse but says it was on Master Yea's birth day for that they were then ringing on that event.

I am Y<sup>r</sup> Faithful Serv<sup>t</sup>.

Abra: Stevens.

B.water 26 Aug<sup>t</sup> 1778."

The following particulars of evidence were afterwards noted upon the unwritten pages of the same letter :—

“ Friday 21<sup>st</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup>. 78. Tuffy saith y<sup>t</sup>. Smith & Pearse came to Oakehampton just as the Sun was going down & rest themselves on the pale Gate out ag<sup>st</sup> the Hother Pidgeon House Mead and after consulting together some time Pearse started up and said to Smith Damme I will run up w<sup>h</sup> he instantly did run up at the Dore of Oakehampton and pull’d up the latch of the Door & then call’d Tuffy not hearing any answer made He then forced the Dore with great Vengeance all y<sup>t</sup>. was in His power Pearse said y<sup>t</sup>. the Bar of the Door gave way & made some noise. He then call’d to Smith w<sup>h</sup> He immediately ran up & then both set hard at the Dore & strain’d it with great Vehemence, never saying a word more But hearing of M<sup>rs</sup> Bucknell & Her boy coming they then took to their Heels and ran away as hard as they could y<sup>e</sup>. one Smith took the Right hand to y<sup>e</sup> New Road Hedge & the other the Left behind the Straw Rick & M<sup>rs</sup> Bucknell went up the Orchard in her way on to the Mowbarton. That Tuffy further saith He has been inform’d that s<sup>d</sup>. Smith & Pearse had a mind to break open Oakhampton House when they lived at lower Stone Land & apply’d to Jo<sup>n</sup>. Stone Jun<sup>r</sup>. if He wou<sup>d</sup>. be concern’d, for so s<sup>d</sup>. Stone it was absolutely true as Jo<sup>n</sup>. Mare informs the s<sup>d</sup>. Tuffy and y<sup>t</sup>. Tuffy do verily belive y<sup>t</sup>. the s<sup>d</sup>. Smith & Pearse came with the full intention if possible to break open and to plunder the s<sup>d</sup>. House as aforesaid and if they had so entered &

found Him y<sup>t</sup> they wou'd have kill'd Him also for y<sup>t</sup> He has been pursued by them already to flarmer Burston's House & if they had overtaken Him then Tuffy believes they wou'd have hang'd Him so low as to make the World believe He had Hung Himself all this is true & I am ready to be sworn to it at any time when call'd on as witness my hand

The mark X of

Jo<sup>n</sup> Mare Ju<sup>r</sup>

Jo<sup>n</sup> Collard Sign'd 28<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>st</sup> 78.

Tom Stone.

Mr. J. Bucknell was in Lower ox lears\* long of the Tythe He bought of the prockter of Wilscombe & saw them some time of the day y<sup>t</sup> Tuffy had some Hogsheads of theirs.

Aug<sup>st</sup> ye 12<sup>th</sup> ye 14<sup>th</sup> 1778 Tuffy says Mr. Tho<sup>s</sup>. Butcher was in the old Orchard & placed his Boys to the Gates to kill the old Hare Dick Parker & Jo<sup>n</sup> Mare witnesses.

saw them at Shoddenwater together Ric. Sealey & White

saw them afterwards up at Sam Yandells when it was Dark."

It will be observed that these facts appear to have had no connection whatever with the case referred to in the lawyer's letter on which they were noted down.

Lady Yea, who as it has already been stated was the daughter of Sir George Trevelyan, Bart., must have been a lady possessed of no small amount of business knowledge, as the following letter written by her will sufficiently prove:—

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\* *Lears*.—This is a local term for a pasture field where cattle graze during the Summer months.



“Lady Yea will take it as a favour if Mr. Baldon will inform Mr. Stevens that I am much obliged to him for his note through you, and am very sorry for his bad success in Devon in consequence of which I shall esteem it as a further obligation if Mr. Stevens will inform me in what manner I can receive my Mich<sup>s</sup> quarterage as I apprehend Mr. Stevens is not in cash nor may not be for sometime. Whether he would accept of a draft drawn by Mr. Charter for my use? and at what date? or in what manner Mr. Stevens can devise; be so good as to inform him that Farmer Dun of Chipstable paid his rent last Saturday. Perhaps Mr. Stevens can draw upon Mr. Proctor Thomas of this town.

Nov<sup>r</sup>. 22<sup>d</sup>. 1784.

I would not importune Mr. Stevens but I have an immediate occasion for cash.”

Sir William Yea's mother, who lived to the advanced age of 84 years, died in the year 1781.\* It must have been extremely gratifying to this elderly lady to have had her life spared long enough to have witnessed the good social matrimonial alliance formed by her only surviving son, and his subsequent advancement to honour and preferment.

Not many years after her death, towards the close of the eighteenth century, in the year 1793, a most audacious burglary was committed at Pyrland Hall. The most accurate version of

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\* *Burials*, 1781.—“Joan Yea Relict of David Yea Gent (aged 84) 26<sup>th</sup> Octbr”

*Wiveliscombe Parish Register.*

the whole circumstances connected with this case appears to have been given by R. Arthur Kinglake, Esq., J.P., of Taunton, in *Somersetshire Archæological Notes and Queries* in the *Somerset County Gazette* of the 20th of December, 1879. It is as follows:—

“THE HERO OF PYRLAND HALL. — Pyrland Hall was the scene, at the latter end of the last century, of one of the most daring robberies that ever occurred in the West of England. By the connivance of two treacherous and dishonest servants, the house-keeper and page, five or six men were permitted to enter Pyrland Hall at midnight. Their faces were concealed with black crape. They found the master of the house, Sir William Yea, Bart., and his nephew at supper, and they tied the former with cords used by shoemakers to his chair, whilst engaged in searching for plate and money. The nephew, probably in the excitement of the moment, did not remain to assist his relative, but jumped out of the window of the dining room and ran hastily to Taunton for assistance. Strange and almost incredible is the story, but not less true, Sir William managed, with his hands bound, to reach the supper-table, and got hold of a large carving-knife and cut his fetters, and with this weapon defended himself gallantly for more than an hour against his numerous assailants in a manner that called forth the astonishment and admiration of all persons who heard his evidence at the trial. The men were discovered, and the Government issued a special commission for the trial of the accused. The ringleader was found guilty, and executed at

Dodhill Green, in the presence of thousands of persons collected from all parts of Somerset. There are persons now living who remember seeing the scaffold at Dodhill Green. It is not creditable to the former custodians of our Somersetshire documents that no record of the execution is to be found at Ilchester, or among the papers in the gaol of Taunton. Presumptive evidence is sometimes stronger than direct testimony. The judge, in summing up the case against the prisoner, alluded particularly to the curious fact that a shoemaker living in Taunton proved at the trial that the cord used for tying Sir Wm. Yea to his chair was a part of the same ball of cord which he had sold a few days before to some one living in the neighbourhood of Pyrland Hall. Perhaps the Lord Chief Justice of the present day would be scarcely satisfied with such testimony.\* There is a tradition that the housekeeper subsequently married the page, and that they went to reside at Jersey, the climate of the Vale of Taunton being too warm for their constitutions. I will here add that I obtained this information from my father, who knew Sir William Yea, and that he well remembered the execution referred to. R. ARTHUR KINGLAKE."

Another remarkable feature in connection with this event was the fact that the nephew of Sir William Yea had arrived unexpectedly from his travels on the very day the burglary was committed. It may be here added that the ringleader of this daring attack

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\* The Right Hon. Sir A. J. E. Cockburn, Bart., G.C.B., was Lord Chief Justice of England at the time when this account was written.

lived not far from Pyrland Hall, at a place called Nailesbourne, in the adjoining parish of Kingston. A search having been made for him for several days, he was at length found concealed in the roof of his house by thrusting a spit through the thatch. It was then the custom to execute criminals as near as possible to the spot where the crime had been enacted, and Dodhill Green was probably selected for three reasons, *viz.*: from its close proximity to Pyrland Hall; because it was then an unenclosed common situated on the highway from Taunton to Kingston, at the junction of another road; and last, but not least, because it was situated in the delinquent's own parish. Sir William, who was an old gentleman possessing great force of character—so much so that the old inhabitants of the neighbourhood of Taunton and Wiveliscombe would have one almost believe that he took upon himself the power to deal summarily with any burglar or other notorious criminal without the intervention of a judge and jury—displayed quite as much energy upon the occasion of the execution as he did while defending himself in his own house. We are informed that he was present on horseback, and, perhaps mindful of the indignity which he had suffered, made some not very complimentary remarks to the hangman respecting the culprit. Mental gifts, as well as bodily ailments, are often hereditary, although they may lie dormant for a generation or two: and one cannot help thinking that Colonel Lacy Yea, while leading on the attack upon the Redan in 1855, was but reproducing that same determination of

character which had been displayed by his great-grandfather while defending himself against the attacks of the burglars, with perhaps the advantage of a more careful and systematic training.

Another interesting cause, but of a Civil nature, in which Sir William Yea was indirectly interested, was, according to the account given in *The Western Flying Post, or Sherborne and Yeovil Mercury and General Advertizer*, for Monday, April 10th, 1797, tried at the Somersetshire Spring Assizes in that year :—"At the above Assizes came on to be tried before Sir Francis Buller, Bart., the important cause of Maddoc against the gentlemen constituting the firm of the new bank in Taunton. It was an action on the Statute of Usury for the recovery of penalties to a very large amount, said to have been incurred by the defendants in their discount transactions with Mr. James Haviland. Mr. Gibbs, Counsel for the plaintiff, stated his client's case; the substance of which was, that Mr. Haviland being in the possession of several promissory notes indorsed by Sir William Yea, payable in London four months after date, carried them to the banking-house of the defendants to be discounted—that Mr. Haviland received the amount of the notes, partly in cash and partly in the defendants' drafts on their bankers in London, payable three days after sight—that the defendants took interest on the amount of the notes for the time they had to run, except for three days' grace, which they did not take, and made no allowance for their drafts at three days' sight. Mr. Gibbs then assimilated it to the case of the Portsmouth Bank,

of which the public had heard so much, and relied on Lord Kenyon's opinion delivered in that case as an authority for recovering in this action. Mr. George Yea and Mr. Haviland were produced as witnesses, and the evidence for the plaintiff being closed, Mr. Erskine\* took an objection, that the action could not be supported inasmuch as the plaintiff had not proved the actual payment of the usurious interest alleged to have been taken, and supported his objection in a long and most animated address. He was answered by Mr. Gibbs† and the other Counsel for the plaintiff; upon which the learned judge gave it his clear and decided opinion, that the evidence had not shewn the cause to be within the Act of Parliament, and therefore nonsuited the plaintiff."

To return to the main thread of this history. William Walter Yea, Esq., the eldest son of Sir William and Lady Julia Yea, on or about the 21st of April, 1783, married Jane, the daughter and co-heiress of Francis Newman, Esq., of Cadbury House in the county of Somerset—(Arms :—*Quarterly*, SA. and AR. in the first and fourth quarters three mallets of the second, in the centre an inescutcheon GU. charged with a portcullis imperially crowned OR, being an augmentation of arms granted by Charles II. to Colonel Richard Newman for his bravery at the Battle of Worcester)—the representative of

\* Mr. Erskine, the most brilliant advocate that the Bar of England has ever produced, became Lord Chancellor.

† Afterwards Sir Vicary Gibbs, Attorney-General, and subsequently Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas.

an old Somersetshire family.\* This lady was a lineal descendant in the direct line of Richard Newman, Esq., High Steward of Westminster, who in the reign of James I. purchased North and South Cadbury in the county of Somerset of Sir Francis Hastings. Richard Newman, Esq., was imprisoned by Oliver Cromwell for his attachment to Charles I., whom he attended in his troubles and supplied with large sums of money. From this Richard Newman, Esq., were descended Sir Richard and Sir Samuel Newman, of Fifehide in the county of Dorset, where many of his family were buried; and Collinson informs us that at the time when he was writing his *History of Somersetshire* "the lineal descendant and present representative of this ancient family is Francis Newman, Esq., who is lord of both the manors of North and South Cadbury."†

William Walter Yea, Esq., resided in a large and substantial house built of brick near Castle Green, Taunton, in the parish of Bishop's Hull. He died during his father's lifetime, on the 27th of December, 1804, (See Appendix X.) at the comparatively early age of forty-eight years. His widow, who survived him twenty-five years, died on the 31st of January, 1829, aged

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\* The trustees under their Marriage Settlement, which bears date the 21st April, 1783, were—Edward Berkeley Portman [the father of the Right Honourable the Viscount Portman], William Morton Pitt, George Trevelyan, and Giles Templeman, Esquires.

† Collinson's *History of Somersetshire*, vol. ii., pages 67-68.

seventy-two years. She was interred in the vault belonging to the Yea family in the parish Church of Taunton St. James. The ceremony took place at night, and the torchlight procession from Pyrland Hall to the Church, a distance of nearly two miles, was witnessed by hundreds of spectators. As this was the last torchlight funeral which ever took place in the borough of Taunton, it naturally made a deep impression on the minds of those who are old enough to have recollected the burial of this lady, who was at that time popularly known as Madam Yea. Sir William Yea himself was gathered to his fathers on the 18th of November, 1806, at the ripe age of seventy-nine years; and while reading the inscription—

“ In Memory of  
SIR WILLIAM YEA,  
Of Pyrland House, Somersetshire, Bart.  
Who died the 18th November, 1806,  
Aged 79 years ”

on the mural tablet on the wall of the north aisle of the parish Church of Wiveliscombe, one's thoughts naturally revert to the 25th of July, 1548, when his ancestor bequeathed his “bodie to be bueried in the churche of Wyviliscombe aforesaid.” At the time of his death Sir William Yea and his ancestors had been lessees of the farm of Oakhampton for three hundred and six years, thus furnishing an instance of perhaps the longest tenancy on record. That an ancient family could by force of character and economy



for so long a period retain this holding is most remarkable,\* but to intermarry with one of the oldest county families in the same neighbourhood, and afterwards to be advanced to a baronetcy, as it were on the spot, reads more like the concluding chapter of some ingeniously written novel than reality; but inasmuch as truth is sometimes stranger than fiction, truth must prevail here, and furnish an example in the history of the Yea family of that which may never happen again in the history of this or of any other county.

Through the marriage with the co-heiress of Francis Newman, Esq., the Yea family must have acquired a considerable amount of landed property in the parishes of North Cadbury and Sparkford. (See Appendix Y.) The issue of the marriage between William Walter Yea, Esq., and Miss Newman consisted of two sons and five daughters, *viz.*: William Walter, of Pyrland Hall, who was born the 19th of April, 1784, and who succeeded his grandfather as the second Baronet on the 18th of November, 1806; Henry Lacy, who was born on the 18th of November, 1798, and who succeeded his brother as third Baronet on the 20th day of May, 1862; Jane Newman, who married Captain George Matson, R.N.; Georgiana, who married in the year 1804 Haynes Gibbs Alleyne, Esq., of Barbadoes, eldest son of the Hon. John Foster Alleyne, of the Island of Barbadoes;† Julia Eleanora, who married Francis

\* Leasehold property held upon lives, although descendible to the heir, cannot, as in the case of freehold, be entailed.

† The issue of this marriage were two daughters, one of whom was married to the late George Fursdon, Esq., of Fursdon, in the county of Devon, the representative of an ancient Devonshire family.

Newman Rogers, Esq., Recorder of the City of Exeter, and one of Her Majesty's Counsel (who died in the month of July, 1851, leaving issue, *viz.*, The Rev. Edward Henry Rogers, M.A., late Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, and at the present time Vicar of Thames Ditton, Surrey; Walter Lacy Rogers, since deceased; and another brother who died during his father's lifetime); Louisa, who died unmarried on the 10th day of July, 1872; and Charlotte, who was married on the 14th day of March, 1820, to Robert Grant, Esq., of Tillyfour, youngest son of Sir Archibald Grant, of Monymusk, Baronet, of which marriage and its issue more detailed particulars will presently be given.

Sir William Walter Yea, the second Baronet, married on the 24th day of June, 1805, Anne Heckstetter, the youngest daughter of Colonel David Michel, of Dulish House, Dorsetshire. She predeceased her husband on the 9th of September, 1846, and was buried in the Michel family vault in the parish Church of Longbredy in the same county. With regard to the history of the Michel family, genealogists are agreed in ascribing to it a very ancient and highly honourable original. Among the numerous adventurers who flocked to the standard of William the Conqueror previously to his setting out for the conquest of England was a powerful baron of the name of De Aquila, who assumed that name, we are told, from the fact that while engaged in clearing the site for the erection of his castle in Normandy, in the topmost branches of a tree which had to be removed was discovered an eagle's nest.

This was immediately interpreted as an omen presaging good luck—and it must be recollected that the Normans, although they had for more than one hundred years discarded their ancient religion, still retained a good deal of its superstition—to the owner, who in consequence assumed the surname of Aquila or De Aquila. This Gilbert de Aquila was killed at the battle of Hastings, but his son Gilbert, who appears to have been in favour with Henry I., was granted the Castle and Honour of Pevensey in Sussex, a place memorable in the annals of this country from the fact of its having been the landing place of William the Conqueror. After Gilbert de Aquila had taken up his residence at Pevensey Castle the style of describing his barony was altered from that of Pevensey to that of the Honour\* of Eye or ‘Aquila.’ This Gilbert was sometimes called Gilbert *Magnus*, in Latin, and in Saxon *Michel*, both of which signify ‘great,’ but he did not, as it has been erroneously supposed, give his name either to Mitcham in Surrey or Micheldean in Gloucestershire, inasmuch as those places were thus named before the Norman Conquest. From Gilbert de Aquila were descended the leading Sussex families of Michel and Eagles, one of the former of whom greatly distinguished himself at the battle of Agincourt. In the reign of Elizabeth we find two branches of the same family, both armigers, settled in the neighbourhood of Bodmin in Cornwall, and another at Dalwood, in the

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\* An Honour was a barony consisting of several manors or knights’ fees.

parish of Stockland in the county of Dorset, and it is from this latter branch that those of Dulish and Kingstone-Russell in the same county were immediately descended. The Michel family of Dulish and Kingstone-Russell, through the marriage with the daughter of Sir David Heckstetter, of Southgate in the county of Middlesex, was descended from the ancient German baronial family of Heckstetter (formerly written Hockstetter), several brothers of whom for their prowess were at the same time ennobled by the Emperor Maximilian. Lady Anne Heckstetter Yea's mother was Grace, the first wife of Colonel David Robert Michel, and daughter of John Ayscough, Esq., of St. Thomas-in-the-East, Jamaica. Her eldest brother in the year 1838 was a Lieutenant-General in the Army. The Arms of the Michel family of Dorsetshire are:—*Per chev. AR. and SA. three herons' heads erased counterchanged.* Crest:—*A dexter hand holding a crane's head erased.*

On or about the year 1820 there was quartered with a detachment of his regiment (the 4th Light Dragoons) in Taunton a young Scotch gentleman, belonging to an ancient and illustrious family, who was introduced to Miss Charlotte Yea, the youngest sister of Sir William Walter Yea, the second Baronet. This young gentleman was Robert Grant, Esq., youngest son of Sir Archibald Grant, Bart., of Monymusk, Aberdeenshire. The gentleman and lady having become very much attached to each other, were married on the 14th of March, 1820, at the parish Church of Taunton St. James, which marriage was

announced in the *Taunton Courier* of the 15th of March, 1820, as follows:—"On Tuesday the 14th inst., at St. James' Church, Taunton, by the Rev. Archdeacon Trevelyan,\* Robert Grant, Esq., of the 4th Light Dragoons, youngest son of Sir Archibald Grant, Bart., of Monymusk, Aberdeenshire, to Charlotte, youngest daughter of the late William Walter Yea, Esq., of Pyrland Hall, in the county of Somerset, and sister to Sir William Walter Yea, Bart., of Kingston Russell, Dorsetshire.† Robert Grant, Esq., was a great-grandson of Sir Francis Grant, the first Baronet, who himself was lineally descended from Sir John Grant of Grant and the Lady Margery Stuart, daughter of the Earl of

\* This gentleman was the father of Sir Charles Edward Trevelyan, Bart., K.C.B., and grandfather of the Right Hon. Charles Otto Trevelyan.

† *Extract from the Parish Register of Taunton St. James:—*

"Robert Grant of the Parish of St. Mary Magdalene Bachelor and Charlotte Yea of this Parish Spinster were married in this Church by Licence this fourteenth day of March in the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty by me

GEORGE TREVELYAN Officiating Minister.

This marriage was	}	ROBERT GRANT
solemnized between us		CHARLOTTE YEA

In the presence of	{	HENRY LACY YEA, NORCLIFFE NORCLIFFE,
		JULIA ELEANORA YEA,
		GEORGE BOOTH TYNDALE,
		LOUISA YEA, JANE NEWMAN YEA.

The above was extracted from the Register belonging to the Parish of Taunton St. James in the County of Somerset March 15th 1820 by me

JAMES TOWNSEND (Curate)."

Athol. Sir Francis Grant, whose family diverged from the main stem in the year 1580, was born in the year 1660, and commenced his educational career in the University of Aberdeen, but, having been intended for the legal profession, he was sent to perfect his studies at the famous University of Leyden, under the celebrated Professor Voet. There he greatly distinguished himself, and upon his return to Scotland, after having gone through the usual preliminary steps, was admitted an Advocate. He had not long been so admitted when he was fortunate enough to have his talents duly recognized and appreciated by no less distinguished a person than Sir George Mackenzie, who at that time filled the office of King's Advocate. At the time of the Revolution Mr. Grant, who was then but twenty-eight years of age, contributed in no small degree by his able advocacy both in speaking and writing, together with his sound knowledge of Constitutional Law, to prepare the public mind in Scotland to duly appreciate the intentions of William, Prince of Orange. This was considered a bold step; but Mr. Grant was subsequently rewarded for his zeal and integrity by gaining a large practice, and among his clients were to be found those representing both political parties. In the discharge of his duties he carried into effect in its true spirit the functions of an advocate, so much so that in reading an account of his life one is forcibly reminded of the honour and integrity which prevailed in the "palmy days" of the Roman Bar, a strong contrast to that inordinate avidity for gain

which in modern times has too often marred and disfigured an honourable profession. This upright and honourable gentleman frequently at a considerable sacrifice to himself rendered his services to poor but deserving clients without receiving a fee. In the year 1705 he was created by Queen Anne, unexpected and unsought, a Baronet; and about a year later he was raised to the Judicial Bench, or, as the Judges in Scotland were styled, one of the Senators of the College of Justice, with the title of Lord Cullen, which he took from his estate in Banffshire. During the period of his judgeship he found time to write several political treatises of marked ability and learning; and upon the 17th of May, 1720, he received a special warrant under the sign manual of George I. granting the armorial addition of a *bordure ermine* as a token of his judicial rank, *together with two angels as supporters*.\* Sir Francis Grant died on the 16th of March, 1726, in the sixty-sixth year of his age, leaving three sons and five daughters, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Archibald Grant, Esq., M.P. for Aberdeenshire. William Grant, Esq., his second son, who inherited the same order of intellect and culture, was for several years Lord Advocate of Scotland. He likewise was raised to the Bench with the title of Lord Preston Grange. The estate of Monymusk—upon a portion of which formerly stood a priory founded by Gilchrist,

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\* The Arms of the family of Grant of Monymusk are:—*Gu. three antique crowns OR, within a bordure ermine*. Crest:—*A Bible expanded ppr.* Mottoes:—(over the Crest) "*Suum cuique*"; (under the Arms) "*Jehovah Jireh*"; and this, Sir Bernard Burke informs us, is perhaps the only instance in Scotch Heraldry of a Hebrew motto.

Earl of Mar, in the reign of William the Lion, king of Scotland, in the 12th century—was purchased by Lord Cullen of the Forbes family.

The issue of the marriage between Robert Grant, Esq., who was the grandson of Sir Archibald Grant, Bart. (Lord Cullen's eldest son), and Miss Charlotte Yea, were :—Sir Archibald Grant, Bart., who was born in the year 1823, and succeeded his uncle, Sir Isaac Grant, the sixth Baronet; Sir Francis William Grant, the present Baronet, born 1828, formerly a Captain in the 16th Lancers, of Monymusk, Aberdeenshire, and of the Carlton and Army and Navy Clubs, who succeeded to the baronetcy upon the death of his brother, Sir Archibald, on the 4th day of September, 1884; and the following daughters: Louisa Charlotte Yea Grant, born at Pyrland Hall, Taunton, on the 20th day of July, 1822, remarkable for her great beauty, so much so that she was known in Paris as “La belle Louise,” who died unmarried in Paris on the 2nd of August, 1839, at the early age of 17;\* and Mary Jane Forbes, married in 1853 to John Gregson, Esq., of Burdon in the county of Durham. Robert Grant, Esq., the father of Sir Archibald and Sir Francis William, was at the time of his death, in the year 1857, a Magistrate and Deputy-Lieutenant for the county of Aberdeen, and likewise filled the office of Convener for that county. Mrs. Grant, his wife (*nee* Miss Charlotte Yea) died in the year 1847,

\* See Grant of Monymusk, referred to in Vol. I. of “*The Chiefs of Grant*,” written by William Fraser, Esq., LL.D., Deputy Keeper of the Records of Scotland, for the late Earl of Seafield.



The family of Grant of Monymusk, as already stated, is a younger branch of the family of Grant of Grant now represented by the Earl of Seafield. Various conjectures have been started respecting the antiquity and origin of this ancient and illustrious clan. It appears pretty well settled among antiquaries that the founder of the family came originally from either Denmark or Norway ; but the difficulty appears to be whether he came directly from either of those two countries, or indirectly at the Norman Conquest of England. There is a strong probability in favour of the latter of these two theories, inasmuch as the name was represented by distinguished persons in the early part of the 13th century in England, and it is well known that several Norman barons went to Scotland and founded clans in the Highlands ; moreover, the word *Grant* was the Norman-French for *Great*,—the surname was frequently spelt *Graunt*. Mr. Fraser, of Edinburgh, however, in his work written for the late Earl of Seafield, in June, 1883, entitled "*The Chiefs of Grant*" (the most able and exhaustive family history perhaps ever written, and which work involved the labour of nine years in its preparation), starts on a firmer basis, *viz.*, with Sir Laurence le Grant, Sheriff of Inverness A.D. 1258-1266.

The issue of the marriage between Sir William Walter Yea (the second Baronet) and Miss Michel were: Lacy Walter Giles, born in Park Row, Bristol, on the 20th of May, 1808 ; William Walter Raleigh, who died young in the month of May, 1814 ;

Raleigh Henry, third and youngest son, born June 2nd, 1817; and three daughters, *viz.*: Eleanora Anne Heckstetter, eldest daughter, who died unmarried at Bath in the month of April, 1883; Charlotte Mary, who married on the 30th of July, 1846, Cholmeley Dering, Esq., of Ayot St. Lawrence in Hertfordshire; and Julia, who married on the 23rd of April, 1844, the Rev. Henry Thompson, sometime of Upton Scudamore in the county of Wilts.

Lacy Walter Giles Yea, better known as Colonel Lacy Yea, the eldest son (and consequently the heir apparent to the baronetcy) of Sir William Walter Yea, the second Baronet, entered the Army in the year 1825, became Lieutenant-Colonel of the 7th Royal Fusiliers in the year 1850, and Brevet-Colonel in the year 1854. This gallant officer, whose name as long as the history of this country shall last will be found indelibly written on the scrolls which record the noble acts of her valiant sons, evinced at an early period of his life that indomitable courage of which at a future period he was destined to give lasting proofs against the foes of his country. The little episode here referred to happened in the year 1821, while Colonel Lacy Yea was a small boy at Eton; and inasmuch as the admirers of Colonel Yea are indebted to a distinguished statesman, who was a witness of the occurrence, for rescuing from oblivion this early link in the chain of future events, it has been deemed advisable to quote the noble author's own words:—"There were several pitched battles in my day, in one of which young Ashley [his lordship here adds in a foot-note, "A

son of Lord Shaftesbury”], a most gallant boy, was killed. A very desperate one occurred between a big boy of sixteen, named Kemp, and Yeo, much smaller and younger, which the latter won by sheer pluck, a quality he long afterwards displayed in the Crimean War, when he commanded the 7th Fusiliers, and fell at the storming of the Redan. He was head of one of the oldest families in Somerset, and, I believe, the last of his race.” (See *Memoirs of an Ex-Minister, an Autobiography*, by the Right Hon. The Earl of Malmesbury, G.C.B.) It will be noticed that the name is here spelt *Yeo*, and it is rather remarkable that ninety-nine out of a hundred who have lived but little in West Somerset still pronounce Yea *Yeo*, and if one were to mention the surname of Yea that of Yeo would at once be understood. The birth of Colonel Lacy Yea, which took place, as already stated, on the 20th of May, 1808, bears out the accuracy of Lord Malmesbury’s statement as to his (Colonel Yea) having been a much younger boy than his opponent, because while the latter is stated to have been sixteen, the former in the year 1821 would naturally have been but thirteen years of age. From this time until the Crimean Invasion very little has been noted in the life of this gallant Colonel, but it was without doubt utilised as a period of preparation for future action. Colonel Lacy Yea in facial appearance bore a marked resemblance—although perhaps considerably taller, and more robust as regards physique—to Napoleon Bonaparte, and upon one occasion he caused no little sensation of interest at a

fancy dress ball at Bath by making his appearance dressed in similar costume to that worn by the conqueror at Austerlitz and Jena, accompanied by several of his brother officers attired as his suite. This gallant and intrepid soldier, after undergoing all the early hardships and rigours of the Crimean Campaign, and passing through the battles of Alma and Inkerman unscathed, fell at the head of his regiment, the 7th Royal Fusiliers, on the 18th of June, 1855 (see copy of the inscription on the mural tablet to the memory of Colonel Yea in the parish church of Taunton St. James—Appendix X.) while leading the right column in the attack upon the Redan. The desperate nature of this assault, which was made for the purpose of dislodging the enemy from one of his strongest redoubts outside the town of Sebastopol, and which was unfortunately attempted without being supported by a sufficient number of troops, can be well gathered from the Commander-in-Chief, Lord Raglan's despatch to Lord Panmure, the Secretary-at-State for War, dated June 19th, 1855:—"I never before witnessed such a continued and heavy fire of grape combined with musketry from the enemies' works, which appeared to be fully manned; and the long lists of killed and wounded in the Light and 4th Divisions, and the seamen of the Naval Brigade under Captain Peel, who was unfortunately wounded, though not severely, will show that a very large proportion of those that went forward fell. Major-General Sir John Campbell, who led the left attack, and Colonel Shadworth, of the 57th, who commanded the storming

party under his direction, were both killed, as was also Colonel Yea, of the Royal Fusiliers, who led the right column. I cannot say too much in praise of these officers," &c. "Colonel Shadworth had maintained the efficiency of his regiment with constant attention to all the details of his command; and Colonel Yea was not only distinguished for his gallantry, but had exercised his control of the Royal Fusiliers in such a manner as to win the affection of the soldiers under his orders, and to secure to them every comfort and accommodation which personal exertions could procure for them," &c. "Lieut.-General Sir G Brown, to whose able assistance I referred in my former despatch, has specially brought to my notice the distinguished conduct of Colonel Yea, who was unfortunately killed, and pays a just tribute to the great merits of that deeply lamented officer," &c.

Colonel Yea, although a strict disciplinarian, was at the same time respected and beloved by the men of his regiment, as the following impartial testimony, written by the Special Correspondent of *The Times* shortly after the assault upon the Redan, will sufficiently prove:—"In turns in the ravine you will find mules with litters for the wounded, and ambulances and horses of the Land Transport Corps mixed together. I saw in one place two of our men apart from the rest, with melancholy faces. 'What are you waiting here for?' said I. 'To go out for the Colonel, Sir,' was the reply. 'What Colonel?' 'Why Colonel Yea, to be sure, Sir,' said the good fellow, who was evidently surprised at my

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thinking there could be any other Colonel in the world. And indeed the Light Division will feel his loss. Under occasional brusqueness of manner he concealed a most kind heart, and a more thorough soldier, one more devoted to his men, to the service, and to his country, never fell in battle than Lacy Yea. I have reason to know that he felt his great services and his arduous exertions had not been rewarded as he had a right to expect. At the Alma he never went back a step, and there were tears in his eyes on that eventful afternoon as he exclaimed to me, when the men had formed on the slope of the hill after the retreat of the enemy, 'There ! look there ! that's all that remains of my poor Fusiliers ! A colour's missing, but, thank God, no Russians have it !' Throughout the winter his attention to his regiment was exemplary. They were the first who had hospital huts. When other regiments were in need of every comfort, and almost every necessary, the Fusiliers, by the care of their Colonel, had everything that could be procured by exertion and foresight. He never missed a turn of duty in the trenches, except for a short time when his medical attendant had to use every effort to induce him to go on board ship to save his life. At Inkerman his gallantry was conspicuous. What did he get for it all ? He and Colonel Egerton are now gone, and there remains in the Light Division but one other officer of the same rank who stands in the same case as they did. Is there nothing to be done for the Colonels ? No recognition of their services ? No decorations ?

No order of merit? Just as one is thinking of these things a French officer passes by with two orderlies after him. He is about 35 years of age, and yet his embroidered sleeves and cap show he is the Colonel of a regiment, and his breast is covered with riband and star and cross. Our Colonels had entered the service ere this young man, who has won nearly all his honours in campaigns against Ben Something-or-other in Africa, was born." Colonel Lacy Yea, who at the time of his death was forty-seven years of age, had been in the Army nearly thirty years. He died unmarried, his three sisters surviving him ; to whom Major-General Codrington, who was Commander-in-Chief of the British Army before the close of the campaign, and who at the time of the assault upon the Redan commanded the Light Division, addressed the following thoughtful, kind and sympathetic letter :—

“ Before Sebastopol, June 19th, 1855.

I hear that my friend, my valued and gallant friend, who yesterday gave up his life to duty, has sisters ; and I presume to write to them in the hope that the assurance of the universal feeling prevalent in the Army of the gallantry of their excellent brother may somewhat soften their misery at his loss. But it is not only of the gallant performance of his duty yesterday that I wish to speak ; on every occasion of fight—at Alma—at Inkerman—in the daily and nightly but not less dangerous fights of the Trenches—the name of Colonel Yea of the 7th Fusiliers has been made most prominent ; and now in this last and desperate attack

upon the Redan of Sebastopol he was named by high authority to the Command of the Brigade in which he has been so much with me, and which was named as the assaulting Column of the Light Division. To no more gallant soldier could this be entrusted; none could show a greater devotion in preparing all the details, and the result has well proved how determined he was by personal efforts and experience to brave everything for success. Alas! he was killed amidst a storm of grape at the abattis of the Redan, having gone up to it with gallant companions of whom few indeed returned unscathed. But it has not only been in battle that he has shown his excellent qualities; throughout the whole of this terrible winter—terrible from want of means—his efforts were never failing by public means, by private efforts, to obtain every relief for the sound men as well as the sick men of his Regiment, and he must have had the gratification of feeling that many of his Regiment were indebted to his unceasing exertions for their life and comparative health. Though an acquaintance only of this Campaign in the Crimea, it became a friendship from the soldier-like assistance he has ever given and the devotion he showed to every duty with which he was entrusted; and you may feel sure that in all the terrible losses by fight or by disease of this War, the grave will close over no more brave, energetic and devoted soldier than over your good Brother.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) WM. CODRINGTON."



General Codrington, who was the son of Admiral Codrington who commanded the Fleet in the year 1827 at the battle of Navarino, had perhaps the very best opportunity of any officer of bearing testimony to the skill and courage of Colonel Yea, being so closely associated with him as he was throughout the Crimean Campaign, especially at the battle of the Alma, as may be gathered from the following high authority :—"The 7th Fusiliers, being on the extreme right of Codrington's brigade, was beyond the reach of his personal guidance, but Lacy Yea, who commanded the regiment, was a man of an onward, fiery, violent nature, not likely to suffer his cherished regiment to stand helpless under muzzles pointed down on him and his people by the skirmishers close overhead. The will of a horseman to move forward, no less than his power to elude or overcome all obstacles, is singularly strengthened by the education of the hunting-field, and Lacy Yea had been used in early days to ride to hounds in one of the stiffest of all hunting-counties. To him this left bank of the Alma crowned with Russian troops was very like the wayside activity which often enough in his boyhood had threatened to wall him back and keep him down in the depths of a Somersetshire lane whilst the hounds were running high up in the field some ten or fifteen feet above. His practised eye soon showed him a fit 'shord' or break in the scarped face of the bank, and then, shouting out to his people, 'Never mind forming! Come on men! Come on, anyhow!' he put his cob to the task, and

quickly gained the top. On either side of him men of his regiment rapidly climbed up, and in such numbers that the Russian skirmishers who had been lining it fell back upon their battalions.”\* It was during this severe battle that Colonel Yea with his regiment entirely unsupported, engaged and defeated a well-organised regiment called the Regiment of the Grand Duke Michael or the Regiment of Kazan, consisting of 1500 strong.† The same authority gives an exceedingly interesting and graphic description—perhaps the finest piece of word painting to be found in the English language—of the part played by the gallant Colonel during some portion of the contest :—“ Lacy Yea had not time to put his Fusiliers in their wonted array, for the enemy’s column was so near that, forthwith and at the instant, it was necessary to ply it with fire; but what man could do, he did. His very shoulders so laboured and strove with the might of his desire to form line, that the curt red shell-jacket he wore was as though it were a world too scant for the strength of the man and the passion that raged within him; but when he turned, his dark eyes yielded fire, and all the while from his deep-chiselled, merciless lips, there pealed the thunder of imprecation and command.”‡

A few months previously to his death, Colonel Lacy Yea acknowledged the receipt of various articles of comfort which

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\* See “ *The Invasion of the Crimea*,” by Alexander William Kinglake, Esq., Fourth edition, Vol. II., pages 334-335.

† “ *The Invasion of the Crimea*,” Vol. II., Chapter XVI.

‡ “ *The Invasion of the Crimea*,” Vol. II., Chapter XVI., page 424.

had been sent out by R. Arthur Kinglake, Esq, J.P., and the leading resident gentry of Weston-Super-Mare, for the express use of his regiment, in the following letter :—

“Camp before Sebastopol, Feb. 28, 1855.

My dear Sir,—I think I may now feel sure that I have got all the various boxes containing the magnificent contributions from the ladies and gentlemen of Weston-Super-Mare to the 7th Fusiliers. Unfortunately some of the boxes were much too large to bring up on our baggage ponies, and they were obliged to be opened on the shore at Balaklava, and the contents transferred to bags; still I do not think anything was lost. Everything containing the creature comforts in the way of food I divided among the men here, and such warm clothing as was required by a few men here (but all were provided before, with very few exceptions), I completed, and the remainder I shipped off to Scutari Hospital, for the use of the sick and convalescent of the regiment, amounting to upwards of three hundred. Having now given you a full account of my distribution, I must beg you to be the channel through which I may lose not a moment in conveying my most warm thanks, as well as those of my whole regiment, to the kind contributors of this magnificent present, and I assure you, the feeling which it has produced among the men will go far to compensate them for their great sufferings during the months of December and January. These last few days have been so mild that both officers and men have been obliged to put off these

warm things, but the climate is so treacherous that to-night it may turn again to snow. With reference to the warm things sent me individually, may I request you to convey my warmest acknowledgments. I fear I shall not have another opportunity of wearing them, but I have put them into our store at Balaklava, ready for another winter, if we should be unfortunate enough to have to pass another one in this climate. I shall ever feel proud of my country for this munificent present to my regiment, and I feel highly complimented at being recognized as a Somersetshire man by the liberal and munificent gentry of Weston, and although I fear I am a perfect stranger to most of them, I trust God will spare me to have an opportunity hereafter of some day returning thanks to many of them in person ; but which I hope you will do for me in as warm terms as it is possible to express. I had the pleasure of seeing your brother on the morning of the battle of Alma, when he was riding with me, as also again very shortly after the battle. I am sorry to hear that he has suffered from illness since his return. May I beg you to offer my condolence, and to hope that long ere this he may be all right again. With a lively sense of all that is due in the shape of thanks to you for your kindness and exertion, and my assurance that neither I nor my regiment will ever forget it, I beg you to believe me,

Yours very faithfully,

LACY YEA,

Colonel commanding 7th Royal Fusiliers.

P.S. Probably it will be satisfactory to many of the contributors to know that there are a great number of men in the 7th Fusiliers from the neighbourhood of Shepton Mallet, Wells, Butleigh, Bristol, and Bath. Of the various articles sent to me, none have proved more useful than the gridirons you fortunately thought of. With these articles my men can cook their own dinners in their own way.

To R. A. Kinglake, Esq., Weston-Super-Mare."

In the attack upon the Redan, Sir John Campbell, Colonel Shadworth, Colonel Lacy Yea, and other officers, amounting to about fifty in number, fell. Colonel Yea's body, it was stated by a contemporary, "was found near the abattis on the right of the Redan; his boots and epaulettes were gone, but otherwise his clothing was untouched. His head was greatly swollen, and his features—and a fine manly face it had been—were nearly undistinguishable." This gallant soldier, who has been described by one of the very best and most impartial judges of all that related to military efficiency during the Crimean Campaign as "a splendid officer," was evidently of the opinion that the only time a British regiment—like a Roman legion—should have rest should be in the hour of battle. He, however, appears to have been very kind and considerate towards young officers. This fact can be fully borne out by Colonel Adair, now commanding the 4th Battalion of Prince Albert's Somersetshire Light Infantry, who served in the Crimea as an officer in the Coldstream Guards.

Colonel Yea was buried in the Crimea ; and the headstone which marks his last resting place bears this inscription :—

“ Sacred  
To the memory  
of  
COL. LACY WALTER YEA,  
*7th Royal Fusiliers,*  
WHO WAS KILLED  
AT THE ASSAULT  
ON THE REDAN,  
**18th June, 1855,**  
AGED 47.”

Soon after his death a handsome marble monument was erected to his memory, at the cost and expense of his eldest sister, Miss Eleanora Heckstetter Yea, on the wall of the north aisle of the parish church of Taunton St. James (See Appendix X.) Two soldiers, one on each side of the memorial, belonging to his regiment are represented leaning on their muskets in the attitude of mourning for the loss of their brave leader, who, like Achilles, fell and was buried in a foreign land, close to the scene of his exploits.

With the death of Colonel Lacy Yea ended the male issue in the direct line. His only surviving brother, Raleigh Henry, who was born on the 2nd of June, 1817, and who was an officer in the 13th (the Somersetshire) Regiment, met with his death on the 1st

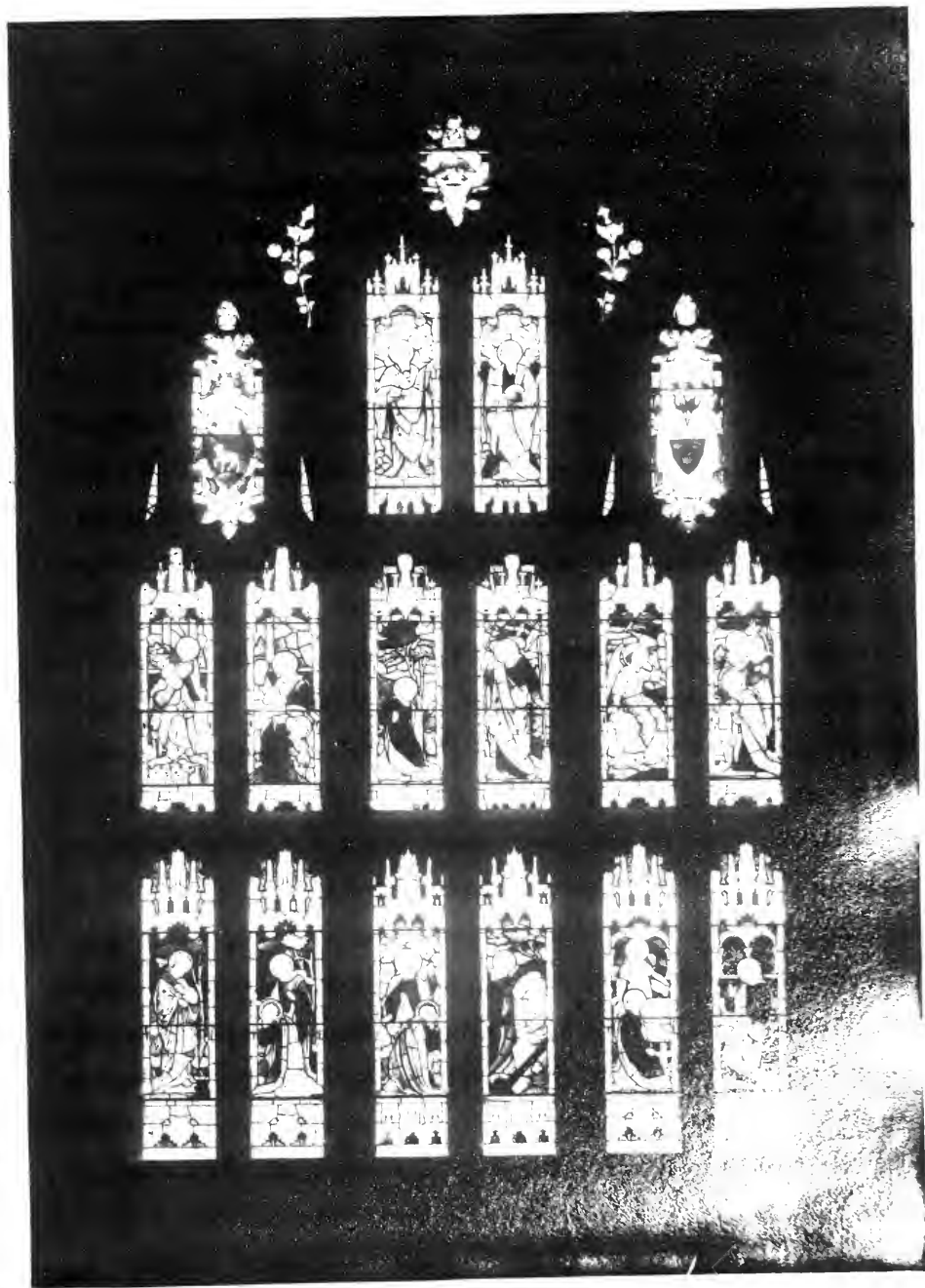
of February, 1855, near the sea coast of Dorsetshire, from an accidental discharge of his gun whilst engaged in duck-shooting, and was buried at Longbredy in the county of Dorset (See Monumental Inscriptions in the parish church of Taunton Saint James—Appendix X.) Raleigh Yea, Esq., married Ellen, second daughter of John Cookson, Esq., of Wittle in the county of Durham.

On the death of both the surviving sons of Sir William Walter Yea, Bart., without issue, his brother, Henry Lacy Yea, became heir presumptive to the baronetcy. Sir William Walter, the second baronet, who died on the 20th of May, 1862, was buried in the family vault in the parish church of Taunton St. James. His brother, Henry Lacy Yea, thereupon succeeded to the baronetcy. Sir Henry Yea, the third baronet, was the last of his race in the male line—a race which in this history has been carried back to the year 1246, to a time when it first became the custom to assume local names. Sir Henry, who resided in Taunton up to the time of his death, and who was very much liked by the Tauntonians on account of his affable disposition, did not survive his brother many years; but dying unmarried in the year 1864, was interred in the family vault in St. James' Church, Taunton.

Miss Louisa Yea, who died 10th July, 1872, at Brighton, left directions in her will to her two executors, Walter Lacy Rogers and Francis William Grant, to erect a memorial window in St.

James's church, Taunton, to her memory and to that of her dear sister, Charlotte Grant. A sum of £150 was set apart for that purpose, and the like sum was given to her nephew, The Rev. Edward Rogers, for a window to her memory in his church at Thames Ditton, Surrey. The late Sir Archibald Grant, Bart., also received £150 to build a vinery to the memory of his aunt at Monymusk, Aberdeenshire. In July, 1872, the new tower of St. James's church, Taunton, was partially finished, and Miss Louisa Yea's executors at once determined to place the memorial window in the tower. The sum of £150 which was at their disposal was found quite insufficient to complete the work, and Captain Grant (now Sir Francis W. Grant, Bart.) contributed the remainder of the money from his own private means. The following account of this handsome memorial window appeared in a local contemporary: "ST. JAMES'S CHURCH.—The large window in the new tower of St. James's Church has just been filled with handsome stained glass. The window, which is of the 14th century style of architecture, is divided into two tiers of lights, six lights in each tier. The subjects chosen for this window, which is a memorial one, are taken from the lives of the two sisters Martha and Mary (*St. John* xi. chap.) On the dexter side of the window are represented the meeting of Martha and Mary with the Saviour; next the raising of Lazarus from the dead and Martha serving (*St. John*, chap. xii.) Above, in the second tier, Mary is anointing the feet of Christ. In the centre is Christ in the garden after his resurrection—"Noli





THE WEST WINDOW IN THE PARISH CHURCH OF TAUNTON ST. JAMES, TO THE MEMORY OF  
MISS LOUISA YEA AND HER SISTER, MRS. CHARLOTTE GRANT



MONUMENT IN THE CHURCH OF MONYMUSK, ABERDEENSHIRE,  
TO THE MEMORY OF ROBERT GRANT, ESQRE.

me tangere"; and, lastly, the three women at the tomb. In the two middle lights in the upper part of the window are two single figures, representing St. James and St. Andrew, who are tutelary saints, the one to whom the Church is dedicated, the other the patron saint of the Diocese. At the top of the window are the Borough arms. On the left side of these are introduced the arms of the Yea family, of Pyrland Hall, Taunton,\* and on the other side are the family arms of the Grants, of Monymusk. Below we find the following inscription:—"In memory of Louisa Yea, who died 10th July, 1872; and of her dear sister, Charlotte Grant, who died 28th November, 1847." This window was designed and executed by Messrs. Heaton, Butler and Co., of Garrick-street, London, and is considered one of their very best works, and no expense has been spared; the glass is of the very richest kind that can be procured, and we are informed that the figures are taken from drawings of the 14th century."

A handsome monument of white marble to the memory of Robert Grant, Esq., the father of Sir Archibald and Sir Francis W. Grant, Barts., had been previously erected in the church of Monymusk, on which the following inscription appears:—"Sacred to the memory of Robert Grant, youngest son of the late Sir Archibald Grant, Bart., of Monymusk, who died at Staindrop

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\* The Arms of the Yea family are:—VERT. *a ram passant*, AR. Crest:—*A talbot passant*, AR. Motto:—"Esto semper fidelis." (See "*Burke's Peerage and Baronetage*," 1833 Edition).

Hall, County Durham, the residence of his son-in-law, on 15th March, 1857, aged 60. He was several years in the 4th Light Dragoons, and upwards of 23 years Convener of the County of Aberdeen, beloved, respected, and deeply regretted by all. 'Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.' *Revelation* ii. ch : 10th verse. I.H.S. Erected 1857."

Upon the extinction of the baronetcy, the family estates became vested in the surviving children of Sir William Walter Yea, *viz.*: Miss Eleanora Yea, Mrs. Cholmeley Dering, and Mrs. Julia Thompson. Of these ladies only one is living at the present time, *viz.* Mrs. Thompson, who is the last surviving lady member of the Yea family. This lady was married to the Rev. Henry Thompson on the 23rd of April, 1844 ; the issue of the marriage being two daughters, *viz.*: Charlotte Heckstetter, eldest daughter and co-heiress, married to Ralph Abercrombie Cameron, Esq., son of the Rev. Alexander Cameron ; and Jane, daughter and co-heiress, unmarried. Miss Yea, the eldest daughter of Sir William Walter Yea, the second baronet, died, as already stated, on the 27th April, 1883. Mrs. Cholmeley Dering, the second daughter, died April, 1882, leaving issue, *viz.*: Captain Edgar William Walter Dering of the King's Own Borderers, and Lionel Ashton Dering, Esq. Mrs. Thompson and Captain Dering are consequently the only surviving co-heiress and heir of Sir William Walter Yea, the second, and of his brother, Sir Henry Lacy Yea, the third baronet.

Yea's Farm, in the parish of Wiveliscombe, probably the most ancient estate of the Yea family in Somersetshire, having been held by them before 1452, and two or three other farms in the same neighbourhood still belong to the representatives of the Yea family. Pyrland Hall, which had been leased to Richard Meade-King, Esq., was sold soon after the death of Sir Henry Lacy Yea, the last baronet, to Arthur Malet, Esq., one of the representatives of the St. Audries branch of the Malet family. It is now the property and residence of G. R. Withington, Esq. Lower Marsh, adjoining the Pyrland Hall estate, is at the present time a portion of the Yea estates. The manor belonging to the family in the parish of Sturminster-Marshall was sold several years ago, as also was their Devonshire property. The pasture land belonging to Sir Francis W. Grant, Bart., adjoining the Cemetery, facing the main road from Taunton to Wellington, at Stepswater, about half-a-mile from Taunton, in the parish of Bishop's Hull, was devised by the will of Mrs. Jane Yea, the widow of the heir-apparent of the first baronet, to her sons-in-law, Francis Newman Rogers and Robert Grant, Esqs., upon trust for her grandson, Raleigh Yea. It was sold by Raleigh Yea, Esq., on or about the 25th October, 1844, to his aunt, Miss Louisa Yea, who afterwards devised it by her will to her nephew, Captain Francis W. Grant (now Sir Francis W. Grant, Bart.), and it became his property after her death in the year 1872.

The surname of Yea is by no means extinct, as it is to be found frequently at the present time in the humbler walks of life. Those living in the neighbourhood of Taunton are probably descended from John Yea of Aisholt, whose name appears in the *Lay Subsidy Roll* of Somersetshire for the year 1542, their immediate ancestor being in all probability Robert Yea of Kingston, near Taunton, whose will was proved in the Archdeacon's Court at Taunton on the 8th of April, 1710 (See Appendix G.) From this branch are probably descended:—George Yea of Kingston, near Taunton, and his brothers, James Yea of Foundry Square, Taunton (sons—William, James, and Charles), Henry Yea of Wareham, county of Dorset (sons—George Charles, James, William Henry, Joseph, and Harry); and their nephews, Eli Yea of Rowbarton, Taunton, (sons—William and Henry), George, James Eli, and John, most of whom have several children.

There are no less than five holdings in Somersetshire to which this ancient family has given its name, *viz.*: Yea's Farm\* in the parish of Wiveliscombe; two farms in the parish of Stogumber, bearing the name of Yea, the one a small farm

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\* In the parish of Wiveliscombe are several farms called after their ancient owners, such as Courtney's, Bowring's (probably held by an ancestor of the late Sir John Bowring, the eminent diplomatist and great linguist), Yea's, Jews, &c. Sir John Hody, Knt., Lord Chief Justice of England in the year 1442, married the heiress of John Jew of Wiveliscombe.

containing about thirty acres, formerly belonging to the Yea family, but sold to a Mr. Samuel Dunn, and the other a large farm with a good deal of common ground belonging to it, consisting of about two hundred acres, and owned at the present time by the Carew family of Crowcombe Court; in the tithing of Cushuish in the parish of Kingston, near Taunton, there is a "Yea's Tenement"; and a large tract of grazing land situated in the parishes of Cannington Stockland and Huntspill, in the neighbourhood of Bridgwater, is known as Yea's Hundred Acres.\* What better proof can possibly exist of the antiquity and influence of this family than the fact of its having implanted its name on so large a number of holdings.

With respect to Devonshire some valuable discoveries have been made. Between the years 1254-7, William de Aure, Walter de la Ya, William de la Ya, and others, were accused of unjustly diverting the course of a stream in Durisse to the injury of Nicholas Douris and his mill; in reply to which the accused

\* The following members of the Yea family were comprised in the Return issued by Her Majesty's command in the year 1873 :—

			A.	R.	P.
Yea, Sir H., Wiveliscombe	-	-	276	3	28
Yea, Miss, Kingston	-	-	16	3	4
Yea, The Misses, Stroud	-	-	436	3	20
Yea, Miss Sarah, Wiveliscombe	-	-	182	0	16

*England & Wales (exclusive of the Metropolis)—Return of Owners of Land, presented to the Houses of Parliament by command of Her Majesty, 1873.*

pleaded that Aure and Douris were different vills and baronies. (*Coram Rege Roll*, 38-41 *Hen. III. m. 9, dorso. Devon*). It also appears that Edwin de la Ya, who lived in the same county, gave on the 6th June, 1281, half-a-mark for an Assise, &c. (*Originalia*, 9 *Edw. I., Westminster*). Douris or Dourish, referred to in the first of these proceedings, was formerly situated in the parish of Crediton, but since Sandford was created a district parish it has formed a portion of the latter. On the 25th of March 1409, (grounded on a Writ issued on the 5th day of February previously), at an Inquisition taken at Barnstaple in Devonshire, on the day of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, by John Gorges, Escheator of the county of Devon, it was found that Robert Yeo, deceased, held no lands in *capite*: but held a toft and a ferling of land in Rynnggedone of John Earl of Huntingdon as of his manor of South Molton by knight service, worth 13s.4d.; also a messuage and ferling of land in Stokebyare of Nicholas Brounford of his manor of Brounford by knight service, value 6s.8d.; a messuage and carucate in Ayllescote in right of Johane his wife, of John Earl of Huntingdon as of the Castle of Barnstaple by knight's service, worth 40s.; the manor of Bradewille as the right of Johane his wife, but of whom and by what service held, they knew not, worth £10 per annum. His death happened on Wednesday next after the Feast of St. Peter called '*Ad Vincula*,' 9 *Hen. IV.* John his son and heir was 19 years of age and upwards on the day of his father's death.



Among the list of landed gentry returned for the county of Devon in the year 1433 were John Yeo, Esq., and Richard Yeo. Branches of the Yea family have for a long time resided at St. Mary Church and Woodbury in the county of Devon. They do not however appear to have sprung immediately from the old Devonshire family now known as Yeo, but to have originated in a more recent migration from Somersetshire (See Appendix B.) The present representatives of this branch are:—Miss Yea, of 4 Friars' Gate, Exeter, whose father (a Devonshire man), was a harbour-master in India; Mr. Frederick Thomas Yea, of 11 Bedford Road, Clapham, London, youngest son of Mr. James Yea of Woodbury, county Devon; and Mrs. Susannah Yea Chave, of Brookdale House, Brislington, Somerset, granddaughter of Mr. Jacob Yea, who lived at St. Mary Church, near Torquay.

The name has likewise been transplanted from the West of England to the Colonies, and there appears to be a solicitor practising in Melbourne at the present time of the name of Yea. Certain it is that some member of the family has pushed himself to the front in Victoria, as the following extract from "*The Australian Handbook (incorporating New Zealand, Fiji, and New Guinea) and Shippers' and Importers' Directory for the year 1884*" at page 396 will conclusively prove:—"Towns in Victoria.—*Yea* (county of Anglesey, electoral district of Kilmore and Anglesey) is a post town, with savings' bank, telegraph and money-order office, on Muddy Creek, 75 miles N.E. of Melbourne, to which there is a

communication by railway. There are three hotels, the 'Commercial,' 'Caledonian,' and 'Royal Mail'; one insurance agency; State schools (Nos. 669 and 1433), aggregate average attendance 88; three places of worship, Episcopal, Presbyterian, and Catholic; court house and police camp. The district is principally a pastoral one, some mining is carried on, and it is also being gradually brought under cultivation. By the official return, to 31st March, 1883, 880 acres were under tillage; 62 acres were under wheat, 231 under oats, 9 under barley, 134 under potatoes, and 334 under hay. Population of town, 249. Net annual value of shire property in 1882 was £15,242."

And now this narrative must be brought to a close—a narrative the object of which has been to trace the history of an ancient and honourable family from its cradle in an age when this country was governed by a military aristocracy of whom the sovereign was the admitted chief; at a time when there existed no standing army; when there were no civil service examinations to be passed, there being no vacancies to fill; when most of the learning was monopolised by the Church; when the collective yearly profits of the merchants of the great metropolis—London—did not equal those of many a single trader in modern times; when the younger sons of country gentlemen, after they had taken their flight from the paternal home, acquired holdings elsewhere which by the patient industry and perseverance exercised by them and their descendants were converted into freehold estates, and which by

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the necessity of the case, without any vain-glory, they were compelled to "call after their own names." It is easy to imagine some mediæval Cincinnatus, after having done service against the enemies of his country, exchanging the sword for the plough-share—the din and turmoil of the camp for the quietude of the homestead. No better encouragement to perseverance and thrift can possibly be found than the practical illustration afforded by the ancient family whose career we have endeavoured to unravel by the help of this historical investigation.

FINIS.



## APPENDIX A.

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*Extracts from Wills of the Yea family of Shobrooke, Sampford Peverell, Stoodleigh, Morebath, &c., proved in Devonshire and in London.*

1586, 4th "februarie."—Will of "Mawde Yea, of Shogbrooke, widowe."—"My daughter Joane," "my sonne Richard Yeo's children," "residue among all my children." Overseers: George Rede and Nicholas Parker.—"A" *Exon Book of Collated Wills*.

1616, October.—Will of Marie Yeawe, of Sampford Peverell; an Exon Will, lost or destroyed.

1642, January.—Will of — Yeaw, of Sampford Peverell, proved in the Principal Registry, Exon; also missing.

The following are Wills which have been proved in the Court of the Archdeacon of Totnes, but are missing:—

1565.—John Yea, Bradworthie (page 59).

1580.—Alicia Yeaw, Holsworthie.

1590.—.....Yeaw, (place not known).

Wills proved in the Court of the Archdeacon of Exeter.

Thomas Yaw, of Morebath. Letters of Administration granted to "Mary Yeaw," relict, on the 28th day of September, 1674.

8th June, 1713.—Robert Yaw, of Morebath in the county of Devon, yeoman.—“To the poore of the pish of Morebath forty shillings,” “to the servants in house 5s. apiece,” “unto my Coosin John Yaw all that twenty pounds and principal money which he oweth me upon Bond,” “unto the children of my brother James Yaw as followeth *viz.* to James Yaw one shilling to Robert Yaw twenty pounds.” Also refers to “Jane the wife of Hugh Poole,” “my daughter-in-law Mary Melton,” “her son Edward Melton,” “her daughter Susanna Melton,” and “her daughter Mary Melton.” Residue to his “wife Susanna Yaw.” Witnesses: John Gardner, John Gardner junr., John Webber. Proved on the last day of April, 1718.

21st of June, 1729.—Will of Susanna Yaw, of Morebath, widow. “To the poor of the parishes of Kingsbrompton Morebath and Bampton 40s. apiece.” Refers to her daughter-in-law Mary Hill, her granddaughter Susanna Sanger, and her daughter Susanna Sanger, “my grandchild Mary Melton,” “my grandchild Jane Melton,” “my cousin Jane Poole and her three daughters, Betty Susanna and Jane Poole,” “Brother John Gardner,” and appointed her grandson Edward Melton sole executor. Witnesses: John Gardner, Gregory Gardner, Henry Joyce. Proved Oct. 8, 1730.

1775.—Will of Wm. Yea, of Knowstone, proved in the Principal Registry at Exeter (lost).

1621, 18th April.—Will of Richard Yeo, of the parish of

Bradworthy, yeoman.—Mentions his sons, John, Hugh and William, and his daughters, Honor, Sara and Elizabeth, his daughter “Ellinor’s child,” and his daughter “Margret’s child.” His wife residuary legatee. Witnesses: William Yeo, Francis Reamor, and Richard Yeo. “William Yeo of Yolston my well-beloved sonne, and Francis Reamor of Monckleigh my sonne-in-law,” overseers. Proved 15 March (*sic.*) 1621.—*Exon Book of Collated Wills.*

7 March, 1696-7.—Will of Francis Yea, of the Parish of Studley [Stoodleigh], Co. Devon, yeoman; proved 14th Feb., 1697-8, by Grace Yea and Susanna Yea, daughters and executrices. “To my son Richard Yea, Stoneland, Colford Down and Colford Mill for the term of his natural life if he do pay to my exors. £80 within 5 years after my decease.” “If the said Richard Yea do not pay £80 within the terme aforesaid then my exors. shall have the aforesaid estate hereby bequeathed to my son Richard.” “To my daughter Catherine Ven £100,” “To my daughter Elizabeth Locke £5,” “To Rich. Lock my grandson £40.” “After the death of my son Richard I give to my daughter Katherine Ven and to her child or children the 3rd part of the remained terme of years or estate which I have in Stoa Land Colford Down and in Colford Mill to be divided between my executors and her.” “Residue of my goods to my two daughters Grace Yea and Susanna Yea, whom I make exors.” “William Eveleigh of Okesford, Richard Nilton of Bampton and Abel Gammion of the same Parish, and Robert

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Yea of Morbath to be rulers in trust for me." Witnesses : Nathaniel Lentell, Anthony Quick, William Fugars, Rich. Melton. Proved in London (56 *Lort*).

.....Yea, of Wolfworthy—a collated Will (lost) proved in the Court of the Archdeacon of Barnstaple, 1603.

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#### APPENDIX B.

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*The Yea family of Woodbury and St. Mary Church.*

Wills proved in the Principal Registry at Exeter, 1766 to 1850.

1818.—John Yea, of Woodbury. December.

1843.—Ann Yea, Woodbury. April.

1847.—Christopher Yea, Woodbury.

Extracts from Parish Registers,

1759.—September 6<sup>th</sup> was baptized John ye son of David Yea,  
*St. Mary Church Parish Register.*

1795.—James son of John & Jenny Yea. April 8<sup>th</sup>, Baptism.

1795.—John Yea of Mattock buried July 15<sup>th</sup> age 60, by John Edsale.

1868.—James Yea of Woodbury buried Nov<sup>r</sup>: 1<sup>st</sup> age 72.

*Woodbury Parish Register.*



## APPENDIX C.

*Will of Richard Yea, of Wiveliscombe, dated 25th July, 1548.*

"In the name of God Amen the xxv<sup>th</sup> daie of Julie in the Seconde yere of or Lord God 1548 and in the Seconde yere of the Raigne of o<sup>r</sup> Sou'aigne Lorde Edwarde the VI<sup>th</sup> by the grace of God of England ffrunce and Ireland Kinge defender of the faithe and in earthe next vnder christe of the Churche of England and also of Ireland the Supreme hed I Richard yea of the prishe of Wyviliscombe in the dioces of Bath and Welles whole of minde and pfitte of Remembrance make my testament and last will in man' and forme folowinge ffirste I bequethe my soule to Almightye god and my bodie to be bueried in the churche of Wyviliscombe aforeside. Also I geue and bequethe to the Repacion of the same Church for my bueriall there a vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup> Also to the Repaacon of the Cathedrall church of Welles I geue a xij<sup>d</sup> I geue and bequethe to John yea my seconde beste salt of silu' pcell [parcel] gilte and half a dosen of silu' spones of the beste Dosen. a fetherbede, a paire of Shetes, a paire of blanketts, a cou'lett, and a box bolster, the twoe middle brasen crocks, the third beste brasen pan, vj platters, vj poteng' [potingers], and vj sauc's [saucers], one oxe, one cowe, half a skore of yeoes, and half a skore of wethers, not of the beste nor yet of the wurste sorte. Also I geue and bequethe to David yea the third best salte of silu' pcell gilte, half half a dosen of silu' spones of the

beste dosen, a ffetherbedd, a paire of shetes, a paire of blanketts, a cou'lett and a bolster the beste, and the leste newe brasen crocks, the seconde beste brasen pan, vj platters, vj poteng's, vj sawc's, one ox, one cowe, half a skore of yewes, and half a skore of wethers of the same sorte that his brother John is s'ued. Also I geve and bequethe unto Radegond Yae a cowe and a litle brasen crock; Provided alwaies that if the same Radigond doe departe this worlde before she be mairried that then she be browghte honestlie in earthe and the residew of her bequests to be retorned vnto John yae and to David yae her brothers equallie to be devided. Also provided John yae or David Yae doe dpte [depart] this worlde before they be of the age of xxj yeres if they or anie of them be vnmarried that then I woulde that he who first deptethe should be honestlie brought in earth and the goodes to him bequethed shall be restored to him that lyveth, whether it be John or David. And if chance they doe depte out of this worlde both of them before they be married that then I woulde they be honestlie browghte in earthe And Radigond yae there sister to haue of their goods a vj<sup>li</sup> xiijs<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup> And all the residue thereof to remaine vnto David Slocombe and Alice his Wief and to there children. Also I will y<sup>t</sup> [that] if the foresaide John yae, David yae, and Radigond yae, or anie of them will not be ordered, ruled, governed, and married, by the advice and counsell of David Slocombe and my ou'seers, that then my bequests to the bequethed, to be devided vnto the .....by the discretion of the same David Slocombe and my

said ou'seers. Also I geue vnto Alice yae my wief xiiij<sup>li</sup> vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup> to be paide to her in money or monie worth. Also I geue and bequethe to the same Alice my wief all the beddinge that is lefte w<sup>ch</sup> she browghte from Whitfeld, and all her apparell, naprie, beades, girdles and taches that she likewise browghte w<sup>th</sup> her. Also I geue to the same Alice my wief yerelie duringe her lief a xx<sup>s</sup> by the yere for her Dowrie of my ffreelands, to be paide of my heires that shall enjoye my saide ffreelands. Also I geue and bequethe to the same Alice my wief, to be good to the pore children before-named xx<sup>s</sup> Also I geue bequethe to Richard Collard the sonne of my Dawghter Johane Collard xx<sup>s</sup> Also I geue and bequethe to Christopher Norman a heaffer of iij yeres age in the stede of a viij<sup>s</sup> w<sup>ch</sup> he claymeth of me. Also I geue and bequethe to Agnes Norman a xx<sup>s</sup>. Moreou' I will that my executors do delu' unto David yae or to John yae when they or anie of them shall chauce to enter into the farme of Okehampton, all my plowghe stuff, that is to saie my beste waine w<sup>th</sup> the wheles bownde w<sup>th</sup> yron, and the worste butt w<sup>th</sup> the wheales likewise bownd w<sup>th</sup> yron, and all my pte [part] of Ropes, yokes, sooles, and all other man' of instruments for the plowghe. And that if David yae doe die before he be married that then to leave all the plowghe stuff and all the instrumentss before rehearsed, to John yae his brother. Also I will yt. [that] when David Slocombe and Alice his wief doe depte this worlde, they to leave to the said David such ymploym<sup>ts</sup> as hereafter foloweth, Twoe Vates, ij coffers, ij chaires, a cobbard and a Tablebord

yt. is nowe in the hall, and the barre of Iron in the chymney and parte of the potthangings. And if that David yae depte this worlde before he be married then he to leave it to his brother John yae all the saide Imployments. ffarthermore I will that David Slocombe and his wief have the kepinge of the said John and David yae vntill they be of a suffyciente age. Mou' I constitute ordaine and make my ou'seers John Benett, John Kinge, Thomas Collard, and Christopher Howell, to see this my last will in eu'ie condition well and trulie performed, and they to have eu'ie of them for their labour and paines a iij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup> The resydue of all my goodes and cattalls not bequethed, my debts, bequests, and fun'all trulie contented and paide, I geue and bequethe to David Slocombe and Alice his wief whome I make my executors, to dispose them for the wealth of my soule as they shall seme best. To this witnesseth Thomas Collard, John Kinge, John Benett, and Xpofer Howell, w<sup>th</sup> Dyu's others."

"Proved 27 ffeb. Ao. Dni 1549," in the Court of the Archdeacon of Taunton.

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#### APPENDIX D.

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Since the earlier portion of this history has been printed one or two important documents have been received, from which it appears that it is impossible that David Yea, the son of John Yea

the younger, the entry of whose baptism is to be found in the Wiveliscombe Parish Register, dated the 18th of October, 1579, could have been the lessee of Oakhampton on the 1st of October, 1608. The lessee at the time referred to was probably the David Yea mentioned in the Will of Richard Yea bearing date the 26th day of July, 1548.

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### APPENDIX E.

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“ 16 January, 43 Elizabeth, A.D. 1602. Lease of Okehampton farme for 21 years from the Dean and Chapter of Wells to John Jones of the Citty of Glocester, Gent.” Rent, £5 1s. 0d.

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### APPENDIX F.

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*Extracts from the Wiveliscombe Parish Registers, from 1558.*

#### “ CHRISTENINGS.”

1566. John the sonne of Phillip Yea the last of Aprill.

1567. Johan the dawghter of Robte Yea the xix<sup>th</sup> of July.

1575. Mary ye dawghter of John Yea ye young<sup>r</sup> ye xxj<sup>th</sup> of Sept.

1579. John ye sonne of Josephe Yea ye xx<sup>th</sup> of Aprill.

David ye sonne of John Yea the young<sup>r</sup> ye xvij<sup>th</sup> of Octobr.

1580. Ellen ye dawght<sup>r</sup> of Joseph Yea ye iij<sup>th</sup> of Octobr.
- 1581. John ye sonne of John Yea ye xxvj<sup>th</sup> of Septembr.
1582. ffranneis ye sonne of Josephe Yea ye xij<sup>th</sup> of Octobr.
1584. Johan ye dawghter of Josephe Yea ye first of January.
1585. Robte ye sonne of John Yea ye xij<sup>th</sup> of June.
1587. Thomas ye sonne of John Yea ye xix<sup>th</sup> of January.
1588. William ye sonne of Joseph Yea ye xv<sup>th</sup> of July.
1589. Charetie ye daw : of John Yea ye xx<sup>th</sup> of Decembr.  
Josephe ye sonne of Josephe Yea ye last of January.
1591. Maximyllian ye sonne of John Yea ye xvj<sup>th</sup> of Octobr.  
Thomas ye sonne of Josephe Yea ye xxx<sup>th</sup> of January.
1593. Robte ye sonne of John Yea ye xxvij<sup>th</sup> of ffebruarie.
1595. Thomas ye sonne of Thomas Yea ye vij<sup>th</sup> of Decembr.
1597. Christopher ye sonne of John Yea ye xxiij<sup>th</sup> of January.  
Phillip ye sonne of Thomas Yea ye xix<sup>th</sup> of ffebruary.
1599. William the sonne of John Yea the firste of Marche.
1609. Mary the daughter of John Yea the xxix<sup>th</sup> of October.
1610. Susanna the daughter of Davyd Yea the xvij<sup>th</sup> daye of Dec.
1611. Johan the daughter of John Yea the vij<sup>th</sup> November.  
Margaret the daughter of david Yea the xij<sup>th</sup> of January.
1614. Jane the daughter of David Yea jun<sup>r</sup> the xx<sup>th</sup> of November.
1616. Mary the daughter of David Yea the second of ffebruary.
1618. David Yea the sonne of David Yea in the 17<sup>th</sup> of May.  
Elizabeth the daughter of Robte Yea the 4<sup>th</sup> of December.
1619. Judith the daughter of Maximilian Yea the 22 of September.

1619. John the sonne of Robt. Yea the 18<sup>o</sup> of february.  
 1622. Johane the daughter of Maximillian Yea the v<sup>th</sup> of May.  
 1624. Christian the daughter of Robt. *Yae* was bap<sup>d</sup>. the iiij<sup>th</sup> of Dec.  
 1628. Marie the daughter of Robt. *Yae* was bap<sup>d</sup> ye xvij<sup>th</sup> of Nov.  
 1631. Johane the daughtler of Robt. *Yae* the xij<sup>th</sup> of August.

## MARRIAGES.

1563. Phillip Yea and Agnes Hoyell ye xxvij<sup>th</sup> of January.  
 1564. Robte Yea & Mary Hill *als.* Hillinge ye viij<sup>th</sup> of October.  
 1577. Richard Cockes & Mary Yea the iiij<sup>th</sup> of October.  
 1580. Symon Berifill & Johan *Yae* ye xxvj<sup>th</sup> of Aprill.  
 1589. John Yea & Cpian Vinnecombe ye x<sup>th</sup> of Maij also.  
 1597. John Collard & Tampsan Yea the xxij<sup>th</sup> of Septembr.  
 1603. John Hillinge and Judith *Yae* the xxij<sup>th</sup> of Januarye.  
 1604. Lawrence Togood and Mary Yea the xxij<sup>th</sup> of October.  
     Phillippe Yea and Mary Hawkings the second of May.  
 1616. Robt. Yea & Christian Chorley the xv<sup>th</sup> of August.  
 1617. Chrofer Cording & Charytie Yea the xxij<sup>th</sup> of January.  
     John Arnell & Mary Yea the last of January.  
 1618. Nicholas Gea (?) & Johane White were married 17 July.  
 1619. Maximilian Yea & Johane ffurzie *alias* Taylor Aprill 14.  
 1628. Thomas *Yae* & Alice Horsey were married the ix<sup>th</sup> of June.  
 1633. Thomas Hill jun<sup>r</sup>. & Marie *Yae* were [married] ye first of Julie.

## BURIALS.

1563. Waulter Yea the xxix<sup>th</sup> daye of June.  
 1584. Richard the sonne of John Yea the x<sup>th</sup> daye of July.

1584. Johan ye dawght<sup>r</sup> of Joseph Yea ye xx<sup>th</sup> of January.

1603. Jane the wife of Joseph Yea the xx<sup>th</sup> of februarie.

1614. John Yea jun<sup>r</sup>. the x<sup>th</sup> of December.

1615. Phillippe Yea the xxvij<sup>th</sup> of Aprill.

1619. David Yea gen : se : the 17<sup>th</sup> of Aprill.

John Yea se : of Yea the fowerth of September 1619.

“CHRISTYNINGS” from 1635.

1643. Henry (?) ye sonne of Christopher & Elizabeth Yaw feb. 2<sup>d</sup>.

1649. ffraunces the sonne of John Yawe the 4<sup>th</sup> of January.

1659. Jane the daughter of Mr. David yea & Mary his wife  
borne the 3<sup>th</sup> of March and Baptized the 5<sup>th</sup> of May.

1661. Elizabeth the daughter of David Yea was borne the 3<sup>rd</sup> of  
february and baptised the 11<sup>th</sup> of february 1661.

1663. David the sonn of David Yea Baptised the 21<sup>st</sup> of January.

1683. Tho. y<sup>e</sup> sonn of Uriah & Elizabeth Yaw.

1684. Elizabeth y<sup>e</sup> daughter of Uriah & Elizabeth Yaw.

“MARYADGES” from 1635.

1640. Christouer Yaw and Elizabeth Webber August ye 13<sup>th</sup>.

“BURYALLS.”

1635. Thomas Yea the xx<sup>th</sup> of December.

1636. Robert Yea the xvij<sup>th</sup> of January.

1637. John Yea the husband of Agnes, October 22<sup>th</sup>.

1638. John the husband of Christian Yawe Aprill 28.

Christian ye relict of John Yea february ye 16<sup>th</sup>.

1639. Marye wife of Christouer Yaw August 11.



1644. Christouer Yaw the husband of Elizabeth Yaw March 6<sup>th</sup>.

1646. Cisely the relict of John Yae July 7<sup>th</sup>.

“The Plague raged with great violence in Wiveliscombe in the year 1646, and it appears by the proceeding Register that about 135 ”.....[The figures are complete, but the remainder of the page has been cut off.]

#### MARRIAGES Anno Dni 1653.

1655. Be it remembered that on ye 10<sup>th</sup> and on ye 17<sup>th</sup> and on ye 24<sup>th</sup> dayes of June 1655 Being three lordes dayes following an Agreement of Marriage betweene Mr David Yea our parish yeoman and Mrs Mary Hobbs of Stogursey in the County of Somerset Spinster was publisht in our Church Wivilscombe according to the act of parliament in that behalfe provided by me William Wood Regester of the same parish.

Be it remembered that on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of July 1655 Mr David yea and Mrs Mary Hobbs were lawfully Married before John Turberville Esqr one of the Justices of the pece for the county of Somerset according to the act of Parliament in that beehalf provided.

John Turburville.

21<sup>st</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup>. 1655. Alexander Basstable blake smith and Elizabeth Yea of o<sup>r</sup>. [parish] single woman.

John Turberville.

1656. “Edward Lelley of o<sup>r</sup>. parish tarlder and Mary Yea of the same pish a single woman” “ye 21<sup>th</sup> of Aprill 1656” “before John Turberville Esqr. one of the Justices of the peace,” &c.

1656—28<sup>th</sup> day of September Mr. Robert Napier Esqr<sup>e</sup>. & Mrs. Katheren treavilian gen<sup>tel</sup> woman, &c.

John Turberville.

## Anno Dni 1653. "BURIALLS."

Joseph yea the husband of Margerie yea buried the 29<sup>th</sup> of December 1657.

Majster Daued Yea the yelder of Ockenton hows buried the 5<sup>th</sup> of May 1658.

1658. Ma. John Yea the husband of Mary Yea bueried the 21<sup>th</sup> of January.

1675. Dorithey the daughter of Mr. Dauey and Mary Yea the 18<sup>th</sup> (?).

1680. Margery Yea Widow was buried the 14<sup>th</sup> of June and on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of June I Thomas Kerswell Vicar Rec<sup>d</sup>. a Cert. under the hand of Edw : Clark Esq<sup>re</sup>. that an affidavitt was made to him that the afores<sup>d</sup> Margery Yea was wrapt vp and bueried in Woollen According to a late Act of Parliament.

## BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES, BURIALS, from 1695 to 1703.

[N.B. A chasm in the Register from 1687 to 1695].

1697. June ye 3<sup>d</sup> was buried Elizabeth ye daughter of Madam Yea.

1698. August ye 4<sup>th</sup> was buried Christian Yaw. A woman that had Releif.

March ye 5<sup>th</sup> was buried Judeth Yaw who had Releif.

## MARRIAGES, BAPTISMS AND BURIALS

from 1704 (25 March) to the 1760 (20<sup>th</sup> July).

## BURIALS.

1712. "The Small Pox was very Hot this last year & half."

Ed : Burton, Vicar.

1738. Thomas ye son of Mr. David Yea & Joan his wife, April 28<sup>th</sup>.  
 1743. Robert & Sarah, ye son & daught<sup>r</sup>. of Mr. David Yea April 29<sup>th</sup>.  
 1748. Mary y<sup>e</sup> daught<sup>r</sup>. of Mr. David Yea & Joan his wife July 21<sup>st</sup>.  
 1751. Mr. David Yea Sen<sup>r</sup>. October 25<sup>th</sup>.  
 1758. Lacey Yea June y<sup>e</sup> 12<sup>th</sup>.

## BAPTISMS, 1757.

William Walter son of William Yea Esq. & Julian his wife June  
 2 | 2<sup>nd</sup> [cut off.]

## BURIALS.

1770. Robert son of Sr. William & Julia Yea 13<sup>th</sup> June.  
 1777. Thomas son of Sr. William Yea 14<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>.  
 1781. Joan Yea Relict of David Yea Gent. (aged 84) 26<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>br</sup>.  
 1806. Sir William Yea Bart. 28<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup>.  
 1809. M<sup>rs</sup>. Jenny Yea Feby. 3<sup>d</sup>.  
 1811. Lacey Yea Esq<sup>r</sup>. Jan<sup>y</sup>. 25<sup>th</sup>.

## MARRIAGES, 1813.

William Burge of Wiveliscombe a Bachelor and Ann Yea of this  
 parish A Spinster 10 May.

*Extracts from the Churchwarden's Accounts of the Parish of  
 Wiveliscombe, from 1681 to 1741.*

The Account of William Chorly and John Nuton Churchwardens  
 made y<sup>e</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> day of June 1681 as follows :—

Sold by Will. Chorly and John Nuton Churchwardens vnto Robert  
 Nuton one seate in the seate on the north side of Mr. David

Yea's seate for the term of the life of John Nuton son of  
Robt. Nuton 4<sup>s</sup>. fine and 1<sup>d</sup>. a yeare Rent.

Rec<sup>d</sup>. of Mr. David Yea in pte of the ffine of the house which Moses  
Snow bought - - - - - £12 . 17 . 0  
Pd. for killinge of seaven ffoxes to Mr. Yea's men - - - 7<sup>s</sup>.

The Account of William Cranmor and Henry Strains Church-  
wardens made 24 day of September 1685 :—

Pd. Mr<sup>s</sup>. Yaw's men for killing 6 foxes - - - 6<sup>s</sup>.

The Accompt of John Michell the younger and William Bowering  
Church wardings made the Tenth daye of July 1686 :—

Pd. Mr. Dauid Yea ffor 4000 and 3 seams of hilling stons 15<sup>s</sup>. 09<sup>d</sup>.  
ffor Carriage of them - - - - - 09 00

(Signed) David Yea Jn<sup>r</sup>. and others.

The Account of David Yea And George Davies made the fourth  
day of July who were Churchwardens in the yeare of Our Lord  
God 1690, &c.

Churchwardens Accounts 1705, &c.:—We craue the Allowances  
Following Item a mistake in rateing Franceis Brayne in Langly  
Tything for that w<sup>ch</sup> now Madam Yea ownes - - - 5<sup>s</sup>.

Churchwardens' Account 1710. Signed by Edward Burton,  
Vicar, David Yea, John Wyne, David Story.

Churchwarden's Account, 1713 :—

Pd. Mr. Yea for Stones - - - - - 9<sup>s</sup>. 3<sup>d</sup>.

## Account 1720-21 :—

It. paid Mr. Yea for 8 Thousand of Tyle Stones	-	1 <sup>s</sup> 8 <sup>d</sup> .
It. for Carriage of them	- - -	12 6

## Account 1725 and part of the year 1726 :—

Itm paid Mr. Yea for 15000 of Tyle Stones	-	£2 12 <sup>s</sup> 6 <sup>d</sup> .
Itm paid ffor Carriage of 1300 of them to		
Henry Hoyell	- - - -	19 6

Account 1727 —June 1<sup>st</sup>.:—

Pd. Mr. Yea for one Thousand of Tyle Stones	-	3 6 <sup>d</sup> .
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Account Sept<sup>r</sup>. the 18<sup>th</sup> 1729 :—

To Mr. Yea for 3 Thousand of Tile Stones	-	10 <sup>s</sup> 0 <sup>d</sup> .
for carriage of them	- - -	04 6
To Mr. Yea's Man for taking & killing one Gray		
[Badger] and 8 hedghogs	- - -	02 4

Account 26<sup>th</sup> May, part 1729 & part 1730 :—

Paid David Yea Gent. for 14 thousand of Tyle		
Stones	- - - -	2 . 09 . 00
Paid for Carriage of the same	- - -	1 . 01 . 00

September 9<sup>th</sup> 1730.—Then Sold by Richard Arseott Churchwarden two sittings to Mr. Francis Chorley Senior which fell into the Parishes Hands on the Death of his father which seat is against ye Windoes of Mr. Dyke's Isle Joyning to Madam Yea's Pew for ye term of his life & the life of his son francis for the Sume of three shillings fine & one Penny a year Rent.

September y<sup>e</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 1730—purchased by Richard Arscott 2 Sittings  
In ye Pew which is against Mr. Dyk's Isle Joyning to Madam  
Yea's Pew, &c.

Account "Jully the 25<sup>th</sup> 1731":—

Paid David Yea Esq <sup>re</sup> . for 9 Thousand of Tyle Stones	1 . 11 . 6
for carriage of them	- - - 13 . 6
Pd. Mr. Yeas man for killing a badger	- - - 1 . 0

Account Sept<sup>r</sup>. 8, 1731.—(Signed) Geo. Atwood, *Officialis*, David  
Yea, James Hellings, Willm. Thorne, Edw<sup>d</sup>. Smyth, Edward  
Collins, Edward Bouchier, Francis Chorley, Henry Hoyell,  
Will. Cranmer, Tho<sup>s</sup>. Lawrence.

Rate, 1733.—Wiveliscombe May y<sup>e</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> 1733. One Church Rate  
made by Thomas Cording Clark of the Parish:—

Nunnington Tything.

David Yea Esq <sup>r</sup> . for Bowrings	- - - 1 s. 0d.
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Oakehampton Tything.

David Yea Esq <sup>r</sup> . for the farm	- - - 10 8
John Wyne Gent. for Ollery	- - - 03 0

Account, "July ye 24<sup>th</sup> 1734 to September ye 5<sup>th</sup> 1735":—

Paid David Yea Esq <sup>r</sup> . for 8000 Tyle Stones	- 1 . 8 . 0
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Wiveliscombe Parish Account of David Yea Esq<sup>r</sup>. and Joseph  
Brown Churchwardens from June y<sup>e</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 1739 to June ye 5<sup>th</sup>  
1740, &c.

## APPENDIX G.

*The Yea family of Bridgwater, Asholt, Cunnington,  
Kingston and Cothelstone.*

John Yea of Asholt, mentioned in the *Lay Subsidy Roll* of the County of Somerset, 34th & 35th Henry VIII. The following particulars of this branch of the family have been discovered subsequently to the earlier portion of this history having been printed.

Will of John Arter of Asholt, dated 12th of August, 1559 :—  
 “ In the name of God Amen The xii<sup>th</sup> Daie of Auguste and in the yere of or Lord God 1559 I John Arter of the pische of Aisholt of pfitt memory Do make my Testament here folowige first I bequethe my soule to Almightye god and my body to be bueried in the churchyard of Aisholt. Itm I geue to Willm Arter my brother xx<sup>s</sup>. in monye Itm I geue to Robert Arter my brother xx<sup>s</sup>. in monye Itm I geue to Katheren Arter my sister xx<sup>s</sup>. in monye Itm I geue to eu’y one in the howse xij<sup>d</sup>. Itm I geue to Elizabeth yawe the wyffe of John yawe iij<sup>s</sup>. iijj<sup>d</sup>. The Resydue of all my goodes not bequethed I geue and bequethe to Jone Legge my mother whom I Do make my lawfull executrix. Witness *John yaw* and Richard Poyten.”  
 Proved in the Court of the Archdeacon of Taunton, 28th February, 1559 (*sic.*)

The following Wills which had been proved in the Archidiaconal Court at Taunton, are missing :—A.D. 1603-1604, Simon Yea of

Spaxton, Richard Yea of Bridgwater ; 1614, Thomas Yawe of Stockland Ottersey.

6th of May, 23rd Elizabeth (A.D. 1581). Will of Julian Goolde, widow, of Bridgwater :—Alexander Torrye of Bridgwater to be residuary legatee and “whole executor.” Witnesses: *Thomas Yeaw* and Paule Carrowe. Proved 3rd November, 1581, in the Court of the Archdeacon of Taunton.

3rd June, 1665. Will of Luce *Yaw* of Asholt, Somerset, widow. To “my son John Yaw Quicksland during his natural life,” to “my son Roberts three children” 20s. apiece. Legacies to Richard, Mary and John Danger ; £12 “to Rebeka my daughter” ; “to her four children John Gabrell David and Mary” 20s. apiece ; to “Humphrey son of Alice Hole” 20s. ; “unto Henry Cridland my apprentice” 20s. ; “unto Richard Hole” 10s. Residue “unto Simon my son and executor.” “Son-in-law Gabrell Lokier and my kinsman Richard Hole,” overseers.

July 1st, 1669. Will of William Yeo of West Monkton :—“Bodie to be buried in Christian burial” ; “unto John Ash of North Petherton my kinsman son of Nicholas Ash all that Close of 3 Ackers lying in the North end of Westmunton (*sic.*) Heiffield [Heathfield] after death of my now wife Bridgett Yeo” and “my Aunt Sarah Yeo” ; “vnto Thomas Upham son of Humfrey Upham my kinsman” £20 ; “unto Valentine Wooll my kinsman living in the parish of Bridgwater” £20, to be paid “to Edward Musgrave of this parish for their benefit ; to the poor of the parish 20s. ; “vnto John Elmes,



Clark of this parish and his son John Elmes both my godchildren" £5 after death of testator's wife; "vnto Ellino<sup>r</sup>. Knight Vid: of Kingson" [Kingston] 20s. after death of wife. Residue "vnto wief Bridgett." Witnesses: Edward Musgrave, Elizabeth Rayer, Joseph Pope. Proved 14th July, 1669.

4th February, 1666. Will of John Yeo of Cannington, Somerset, yeoman:—To be buried in the church of Cannington. To the poor of Cannington, 10s.; to "Amy Yeo my daughter £20 in lieu of a legacy given vnto her by John How her grandfather"; to "Elizabeth Yeo and Mary Yeo each of them ten pounds apice"; "to my daughter Margaret Yeo" £20. Residue to John Yeo. "To my nowe wife" 40s. Overseers: George How and Edward Colles. Proved at Taunton, "4 ffebruary, 1672."

25th June, 1683. Will of Joane *Yeaw* of Cannington, Somerset, widow:—To "John Yeaw my sonne plow tackling and one shilling of money within one year after my decease"; "unto Symon Yeaw my sonne" 10s. at 21 years of age. Residue to "Elizabeth Yeaw Mary Yeaw and Joane Yeaw my daughters and Executrices.

8th June, 1683. Will of "Robert *Yeaw* y<sup>e</sup> Elder" of Cannington, Somerset, yeoman:—"To my daughter Mary Yaw" £80 at 21 years; residue to "my sonne Robert Yeaw," sole executor.

2nd March, 1684. Will of Sarah *Yeow*, of North Petherton:—Body "to Christian burial"; to "Nicholas Aish my kinsman," 40s.; to "John Aish my kinsman" 40s.; "unto my kinsman Nicholas Willsher's three children" 40s. each "after the death of

their mother my kinswoman." Executrix and residuary legatee, Susannah Willshere. Proved 25th April, 1685.

9th January, 1689. Will of John Yeo of Chilton, husbandman:—To be buried in Cannington churchyard. To "the poore of Cannington" 5s.; "unto mary yeo and Elizabeth Yea" (*sic.*) £10 each; "unto Joane Yeo now wife" 1s.; "unto Amy Yeo my daughter the sum of £50. Residue "unto John my son" and "sole executor." "My well belouved friends Mr. William Bicknell and my brother-in-law Robert Mitt[corner worn away] and my sister Margaret Yea (?) guardians over my said children." Proved 30th August, 1690.

14th May, 1695. Will of Margaret Yeo of Bridgwater, spinster: Body to Christian burial; "unto Mary Piper *als* Anstise" £20; to "Elizabeth Piper *als* Anstise" £20; "to my cousin John Yeo" 1s.; "to my cousens Elizabeth Yeo and Mary Yeo" 5s. apiece; to "my sister Mary Piper daughter Elizabeth Piper my cloth coate that is at Kilve; to "my sister Piper a legacy"; mentions her "Mistress Sarah Symes"; "and that my Master Mr. Benjamin Roy may preach my funeral sermon."

13th September, 1708. Will of Robert Yeaw, of Kingston, Somerset, yeoman:—Body "unto descent and christiall (*sic.*) burial in the parish Churchyard of Kingston aforesaid; "to my son Robert Yeaw" £10; "to my daughter Grace" £10; "to my daughter Mary £10; "to Anstis my daughter" £10; "to my daughter Sarah" 20s., "and after the decease of my Executrix to

have a lease that doth belong to her concerning White house tene-ment lying and being in Cothelstone formerly in the possession of Thomas Bridges"; "to my son John" £10; "to my daughter Joan" £10. Wife Joan sole executrix. Witnesses: Henry Cornish, Tho. Cole, Thomas Yard. Proved at Taunton, 8th April, 1710.

1st July, 1719. Will of John Yea of Cannington, yeoman:—"My son John Yea," "my son Nathaniel Yea," "my son Richard Yea," "my daughter Mary Yea," "my son Arthur Yea," "my wife Margery Yea and my son William Yea joint Executors." Proved 16th October, 1719.

31st May, 1722. Will of Joan *Yeaw* of Kingston, Somerset, widow:—"My body I desire may be buried in Kingston Church-yard in Linnen as nigh to the body of my husband as conveniently may be. Refers to her Taunton Deane Lands surrendered to the use of her son-in-law, Daniel Barrell. "Unto my grandson Robert Yeaw son of my son Robert" £30; "to Mr. Thomas Cornish and Thomas Cole of Kingston Yemen for the use and benefit of my grandchildren Robert John and James Hart sons of my son-in-law Robert Hart"; "unto my granddaughter Anstice Comer" £10; "unto my grandchildren Robert and Mary Comer" £10; "unto my four grandchildren the Winslies"; "unto my daughter Sarah Chappells children" 20s.; to "daughter Anne" a legacy; "unto Edward Wensley my son-in-law" a legacy. Executor and residuary legatee "my said son-in-law Daniell Barrell." Witnesses: Richard Cridland, Elizabeth Canniford, John Canniford.

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21st April, 1792. Mary Yawe.—Administration granted to Elizabeth (wife of Thomas Bowyer of North Curry, Somerset, blacksmith) one of the daughters and next of kin of Mary Yawe, late of Bridgwater.

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*Extracts from the Bridgwater Parish Registers (Bishop's Transcripts).*

MARRIAGE.

1599, Aug. 5. Thomas Yawe and Mary Courte.\*

“CHRISTENINGS.”

1601. Nouember the 23 Edmond Yawe.

1605, 12 Jan. Joane the daughter of Richard Yawe & Elizabeth  
his wife bap.

BURIALS.

1605, Aug<sup>t</sup>. 15. Edmund Yawe.

1606, 14 Januarie. Edmund the sonne of Thomas Yawe & Marie  
his wife.

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*Extracts from the Parish Registers of Kingston, near Taunton.*

BAPTISMS.

1678. Mary daughter of Robert Yawe† & Joane his wife, July 21.

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\* The Courts were a family of note living at Bridgwater and in the neighbourhood, and were connected by marriage with Lord Chief Justice Popham's family, of Huntworth, North Petherton.

\* Robert Yea or Yawe, son and heir of John Yea, in the 22nd year of Charles II. lived at Yawe's Tenement in the parish of Kingston. The old house has long since been destroyed, but over the lintel of the door of a cottage near are the letters “R.Y.” with the date “1672,” the same year that Robert Yawe was entered a tenant on the Rolls of the Manor of Taunton Deane.

- 
1680. Anstia daughter of Robert Yawe & Joane his wife, Jan. 5.  
 1682. Sarah daughter of                   ,,                   ,,                   Sept. 3.  
 1684. John son of                   ,,                   ,,                   April 8.  
 1686. Joane daughter of                   ,,                   ,,                   April 21.  
 1699. Simon son of Robert Yawe & Elizabeth his wife, Nov. 26.  
 1702. Mary daughter of                   ,,                   ,,                   ,,                   Sept. 20.  
 1708. Robert son of                   ,,                   ,,                   ,,                   May 23.  
 1719. Sarah daughter of John Yawe & Anne his wife, March 31.

## MARRIAGES.

1698. Robert Yawe and Elizabeth England, June 24.  
 1701. Daniel Barrell and Mary Yawe, September 18.  
 1712. Edward Wensley and Grace Yawe, September 18.  
 1729. Simon Yawe and Elizabeth Castle, May 4.  
 1730. Samuel Lyng and Mary Yawe, August 2.  
 1756. John Lovel and Mary Yea, September 26.

## BURIALS.

1709. Robert Yawe, September 27.  
 1729. Elizabeth wife of Robert Yawe, March 1.  
 1752. Simon Yawe (murdered), July 25.

[Numerous entries of the Yea family appear in this Register down  
to the year 1857, inclusive].

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## APPENDIX H.

*Extract from a Book containing a List of Old Charters belonging to the Dean and Chapter of Wells, relating to Lands at Oakhampton in the parish of Wiveliscombe; the original being in the Cathedral Library at Wells.*

Page 232.—“ Lease and Release by Philip de Drokenesford, brother and heir of Dom. John de Drokenesford, formerly Bishop of Bath and Wells, to Dom. Hamelin de Godele, Canon of Wells, of Lands and Tenements in Okehampton in the parish of Wyvelescombe.

Witn.: Dom. John de Clyvedon Sen., John de Erlegh, Ralph Fitzhours, Hugh de Langelond, Knts., John de Durburgh and *John le Yea.*

Dat. Drokenesford, Mond. F. of St. Margaret Virgin, 6 Edw. III. (A.D. 1332).”

## APPENDIX I.

xxvj<sup>to</sup> ffebruarij Anno Dni 1602. The yearelie valewe of \*\*\*\* landes as everie man hold \*\* the pishe of Wiueliscombe \*\* for her maties. service by the Churchwardens & overseers as followeth—  
Nonington.

florence Renbye	-	-	-	4 <sup>li</sup>	4 <sup>d</sup>
George Studdier	-	-	-	6 <sup>li</sup>	6 <sup>d</sup>

John Richeman	-	-	8 <sup>li</sup>	8 <sup>d</sup>
John Dyer	-	-	6 <sup>li</sup>	6 <sup>d</sup>
Symone Collarde	-	-	30 <sup>s</sup>	<i>ob.</i>
	Suma	-	ij <sup>s</sup>	<i>ob.</i>

## Westwhitefield.

James Cappes gent	-	-	lxiiij <sup>li</sup>	vj <sup>s</sup> ij <sup>d</sup>
Robte Cordinge	-	-	xvj <sup>li</sup>	xvj <sup>d</sup>
Thomas Sealie	-	-	iiij <sup>li</sup>	iiij <sup>d</sup>
John Cappes	}	-	viiij <sup>li</sup>	viiij <sup>d</sup>
Thomas Cowlinge		-		
Thomas Potter	-	-	iiij <sup>li</sup>	iiij <sup>d</sup>
Thomas Slocombe	-	-	viiij <sup>li</sup>	viiij <sup>d</sup>
John Hill <i>als</i> Perry	-	-	xviiij <sup>li</sup>	xviiij <sup>d</sup>

## Eastwhitefield.

John Comere	-	-	viiij <sup>li</sup>	viiij <sup>d</sup>
Henry Bowringe	-	-	viiij <sup>li</sup>	viiij <sup>d</sup>
William Chorley & his sonne	-	-	xvj <sup>li</sup>	xvj <sup>d</sup>
Robte Bowringe & his sonne	-	-	xvj <sup>li</sup>	xvj <sup>d</sup>
Thomas northe & his sonne	-	-	xvj <sup>li</sup>	xvj <sup>d</sup>
John vpham	-	-	xvj <sup>li</sup>	xvj <sup>d</sup>
Robte Goodman	-	-	xxxv <sup>li</sup>	ij <sup>s</sup> xj <sup>d</sup>
Widow newton	-	-	iiij <sup>li</sup>	iiij <sup>d</sup>
Widow Togood	-	-	xxiiij <sup>li</sup>	ij <sup>s</sup>
John Doble	-	-	xij <sup>li</sup>	xij <sup>d</sup>
Robte Bowringe <i>als</i> Harward	-	-	viiij <sup>li</sup>	viiij <sup>d</sup>

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Thomas Sullie	-	-	vii <sup>li</sup>	vii <sup>d</sup>
George Meare	-	-	xx <sup>li</sup>	xx <sup>d</sup>
Henry Handcoke	-	-	vii <sup>li</sup>	vii <sup>d</sup>
Robte Washer	-	-	xvj <sup>li</sup>	xvj <sup>d</sup>
John Perott	-	-	v <sup>li</sup>	v <sup>d</sup>
Robte washer & John Northe for ladie lands			xxx <sup>s</sup>	j <sup>d</sup> ob.

## Westtowne.

Mr. Perry	-	-	liii <sup>li</sup>	iiij <sup>s</sup> vj <sup>d</sup>
Gennett Mere vid.	-	-	xij <sup>li</sup>	xij <sup>d</sup>
John Sealy	-	-	vj <sup>li</sup>	vj <sup>d</sup>
Henry Pearse	-	-	iiij <sup>li</sup>	iiij <sup>d</sup>
John Rodes	-	-	iiij <sup>li</sup>	iiij <sup>d</sup>
Xpofer Handcoke	-	-	viiij <sup>li</sup>	viiij <sup>d</sup>
Xpofer Bowringe	-	-	x <sup>li</sup>	x <sup>d</sup>
William Priest	-	-	xl <sup>s</sup>	ij <sup>d</sup>
William Webber	-	-	xx <sup>s</sup>	j <sup>d</sup>
John Hill	-	-	xx <sup>s</sup>	j <sup>d</sup>
Thomas Stone	-	-	ix <sup>li</sup>	ix <sup>d</sup>
Phillip yea	-	-	iiij <sup>li</sup>	iiij <sup>d</sup>
Robte Hill	-	-	xxxv <sup>li</sup>	ij <sup>s</sup> xj <sup>d</sup>
Thomas marshe	-	-	xvj <sup>li</sup>	xvj <sup>d</sup>
Josephe yea	-	-	x <sup>li</sup>	x <sup>d</sup>
Robte ffileede	-	-	xviiij <sup>li</sup>	xviiij <sup>d</sup>
John yea sen.	-	-	vxj <sup>li</sup>	xvj <sup>d</sup>
Roger vpham	-	-	vj <sup>li</sup>	vj <sup>d</sup>



The widow Yea for Walbredge	-	-	x <sup>li</sup>	x <sup>d</sup>
William Cordinge	-	-	xl <sup>s</sup>	ij <sup>d</sup>
Goulden Hill.				
John ffunteneý	-	-	iiij <sup>li</sup>	iiij <sup>d</sup>
Richard Lane	-	-	l <sup>s</sup>	ij <sup>d</sup> ob.
John Govier	-	-	xx <sup>s</sup>	j <sup>d</sup>
Thomas vpham his burgages	-	-	xl <sup>s</sup>	ij <sup>d</sup>
Croford.				
John Silke	-	-	x <sup>li</sup>	x <sup>d</sup>
Humfrey Stone	-	-	xx <sup>li</sup>	xx <sup>d</sup>
John Pallmere	-	-	x <sup>li</sup>	x <sup>d</sup>
John Chorley for Pallmers on land	-	-	xx <sup>s</sup>	j <sup>d</sup>
John Leight & his sonne	-	-	x <sup>li</sup>	x <sup>d</sup>
William Hillinge	-	-	xxxv <sup>li</sup>	ij <sup>s</sup> xj <sup>d</sup>
Phillip yendall	-	-	vj <sup>li</sup>	vj <sup>d</sup>
The widow fforte	-	-	x <sup>li</sup>	x <sup>d</sup>
William Wilkinges	-	-	iiij <sup>li</sup>	iiij <sup>d</sup>
Robte walcott	-	-	ix <sup>li</sup>	ix <sup>d</sup>
Lawrence ffunteneý	-	-	iiij <sup>li</sup>	iiij <sup>d</sup>
Xpofer Chilcott	-	-	iiij <sup>li</sup>	iiij <sup>d</sup>
The widow yendall	-	-	xij <sup>li</sup>	xij <sup>d</sup>
John Berham	-	-	xiiij <sup>li</sup>	xiiij <sup>d</sup>
James Cappes	-	-	viiij <sup>li</sup>	viiij <sup>d</sup>
John moore	-	-	vj <sup>li</sup>	vj <sup>d</sup>
Thomas Devenell	-	-	xxv <sup>li</sup>	ij <sup>s</sup> j <sup>d</sup>

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George Hoyle	-	-	xxv <sup>li</sup>	ij <sup>s</sup> j <sup>d</sup>
Thomas Hill & his sonne	-	-	xviiij <sup>li</sup>	xviiij <sup>d</sup>
Edward walcott	-	-	xx <sup>s</sup>	j <sup>d</sup>
Thomas Dawe	-	-	xl <sup>s</sup>	ij <sup>d</sup>
Thomas vpham	-	-	iiij <sup>li</sup>	iiij <sup>d</sup>
Joane Tayler widow	-	-	xl <sup>s</sup>	ij <sup>d</sup>
Sampson Venicombe	-	-	xl <sup>s</sup>	ij <sup>d</sup>
John Moore	-	-	xl <sup>s</sup>	ij <sup>d</sup>
Mary withye widow	-	-	xl <sup>s</sup>	ij <sup>d</sup>
John Yea jun.	-	-	xxiiij <sup>li</sup>	ij <sup>s</sup>
Robte Bennett	-	-	xvj <sup>li</sup>	xvj <sup>d</sup>
Christopher Hoyle	-	-	iiij <sup>li</sup>	iiij <sup>d</sup>
Nathaniell Chilcott	-	-	xx <sup>s</sup>	j <sup>d</sup>
William Hill	-	-	iiij <sup>li</sup>	iiij <sup>d</sup>
Etheldred Lambley	-	-	iiij <sup>li</sup>	iiij <sup>d</sup>
Katherine Howe	-	-	iiij <sup>li</sup>	iiij <sup>d</sup>
John Gamblinge	-	-	iiij <sup>li</sup>	iiij <sup>d</sup>
Thomas Jewell	-	-	iiij <sup>li</sup>	iiij <sup>d</sup>
Mr. Roger Bourne	-	-	iiij <sup>li</sup>	iiij <sup>d</sup>
Thomas Bollame	-	-	vij <sup>li</sup>	vij <sup>d</sup>
Edward Stiffe	-	-	xl <sup>s</sup>	ij <sup>d</sup>
George Broughton	-	-	xl <sup>s</sup>	ij <sup>d</sup>
John Crosse	-	-	xx <sup>s</sup>	j <sup>d</sup>
Adriane milton	-	-	xx <sup>s</sup>	j <sup>d</sup>
Waltere Davy	-	-	xx <sup>s</sup>	j <sup>d</sup>

John Hill of ffitzhead	-	-	x <sup>ls</sup>	ij <sup>d</sup>
John Handcocke	-	-	xx <sup>s</sup>	j <sup>d</sup>
Thomas Cappes	-	-	iiij <sup>li</sup>	iiij <sup>d</sup>
Phillip Bowringe	-	-	x <sup>ls</sup>	ij <sup>d</sup>
Xpofer yendall	-	-	vj <sup>li</sup>	6 <sup>d</sup>
Richard James	-	-	iiij <sup>li</sup>	iiij <sup>d</sup>
Simon Cannon	-	-	iiij <sup>li</sup>	iiij <sup>d</sup>
Edward Lancaster gent.	-	-	xiiij <sup>li</sup>	xiiij <sup>d</sup>
John Chilcott	-	-	v <sup>li</sup>	v <sup>d</sup>
Johane Storie vid.	-	-	x <sup>li</sup>	ij <sup>s</sup> iiij <sup>d</sup>
The ffarme of Wiueliscombe	-	-	lxxxx <sup>li</sup>	vij <sup>s</sup> vj <sup>d</sup>
Okehampton.				
David yea	-	-	lxxx <sup>li</sup>	vj <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>
William Chicke	-	-	x <sup>li</sup>	iiij <sup>s</sup> iiij <sup>d</sup>
Suma	-	-	v <sup>li</sup>	xiiij <sup>s</sup> ob.

[For the surname of *Walcott* in the above list read *Wulcott*].

This Rate was sett downe by the Overseers Churchwardens of the poore of Wiueliscombe & was pvsed by Certain of the better sorte of Wiueliscombe & by them allowed & also published in the Church there that if anie could shewe just cause either for abatement or for anie increase they should shewe the same Oithe w<sup>ch</sup> time as by the former Rate appeareth hath benn shewed And therefore now this Rate is Confirmed by John ffrauncis & Humfrey Windham Justices of this Limitte In Witness whereof as well

the sayd justices as the Overseers & Churchwardens haue herevnto subscribed theire names.

	John ffrauncis	
	Humfrey Windham	
Thomas Cappes	John Vpham	
Willm Hill	John Churley	Overseers
Churchwardens	Edward Stiffe	
	Henrie Storey	

This is true Copie  
of the Originall  
as Mr. Henry Story  
doth affirm in the psents  
of us

Thomas Goddard	John Dawe
Richard	Thomas fforte
Wassher	John Davie
	Robert Rbt. Hancocke.

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### APPENDIX J.

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*Will of John Yea the elder, of Chipstable, Somerset, Yeoman.*

25th November, 1619. "My bodie to be buried in the Parish Church of Chipstable afsd." "To my son John Yea all my lands of Inheritance in Wythell s<sup>d</sup> County of Somerset & £140." "If Elizabeth Yea my da. do marry with the consent of my extrix then I bequeath to her £200." "To every of my Godechildren 12<sup>d</sup>. a piece." "If Elizabeth my Wife happen to die before Emlyne my sister the wife of Thomas Courten *als*. Sully then John Yea my

son shall have and enjoy my living called Halsden and the profits during the life of the said Emlyne." "Residue of my goods with my lease of Halsdon I give to Elizabeth Yea my wife whom I make sole extrix." "I pray my brother in lawes John Doble, Robert Talbote and John Talbote, and my kinsmen Wm. Doble and Bartholomew Doble sonnes of the said John Doble and my son John Yea to be overseers." Witnesses: John Doble, Robert Talbote, John Dyer, John Yea Junior, John Talbot Jun<sup>r</sup>. Rich. King, Philip King. Proved in London, 10th February, 1620, by Elizabeth Yea, the relict. (*Dale*, 15).

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#### APPENDIX K.

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*The following is an Extract from the Survey made by order of the Parliament in September, 1649, of Oakhampton in the parish of Wiveliscombe :—*

"All that Messuage or ffarme howse commonly called Oakehamptoune consisting of a large Hall a Kitchen two larders a Buttery fve lodging Chambers And a Brewhowse w<sup>th</sup> chambers ou' it a little Court yard a Woodhouse And a ffold yard conteyning in the whole by estimation  $\overset{A}{3} . \overset{R}{0} . \overset{P}{0}$  £V."

After this follows the names of all the fields belonging to the farm, with their acreage and value, at the end of which is the following :—"2 Aprill in 15 year of the late king Charles Leased

vnto David Yea Sen<sup>r</sup>. of Wivelliscombe in the County of Somerset  
Gent his heirs and assigns for the lives of him the said David Yea  
Sen<sup>r</sup>. David Yea Jun<sup>r</sup>. Mary Yea Sonne and daughter of y<sup>e</sup> said  
David Yea Sen<sup>r</sup>. And the life of the longest liver. Rent £5 . 1 . 0  
worth £10 per annum.

All the lives in being the youngest about 30.

Will. Webb

(Signed) Will. Richardson

Sup. Gen<sup>l</sup>. 1649.

Alexander Lawson

Rich. Combe."

[This document is in the possession of Henry Bellew, Esq., of  
Oakhampton House, Wiveliscombe.]

## APPENDIX L.

*Extracts from the Parish Registers of Brompton Ralph and Stogursey,  
&c., relating to the Yea, Hobbes and Brewer families.*

Brompton "Raffe" Parish Register.

1558. Matrimoniu' solemnizat inter Thoma' Hobbes de Welles  
generosu' et Elizabetha filia Johis Webber istius parchie  
5 ffebruarij.

1559. Matrimoniu' solemnizat inter Robertu Westcombe de Heath-  
feild et katherina filia Johnis Webber istius parchie 28<sup>o</sup> die  
Januarij.

Baptizatus Bartholomeus filius Thome Hobbes 3<sup>o</sup>. die M' cij.

1560. Baptizatus Edwardus filius Thome Hobbes 11<sup>o</sup>. die ffebruarij.

1562. Baptizata Jana filia Thome Hobbes 17<sup>o</sup> die Maij Anno p' dict.
1564. Baptizata Anna filia Thome Hobbes 13<sup>o</sup> die decembris.
1566. Baptizatus ffranciscus filius Thome Hobbes 29<sup>o</sup> die m' cij  
Anno p' dictu.
- Sepultus ffranciscus filius Thome Hobbes 21<sup>o</sup> die Junij.
1567. Baptizatus David filius Thome Hobbes 25<sup>o</sup> die Maij.
1568. Baptizatus Thomas filius Thome Hobbes 8<sup>o</sup> November.
- Sepultus p' dictus Thomas Hobbes filius dicti Thome Hobbes  
decimotertio die Novembris Anno p' dict.
1570. Baptizata Silvester filia Thome Hobbes 27<sup>o</sup> die Septembris.
1572. Baptizata Margareta filia Thome Hobbes 14<sup>o</sup> die Decembris.
1574. Baptizatus Thomas filius Thome Hobbes quinto die Maij.
- Sepulta Johanna Slocombe, Ancilla Thome Hobbes 22<sup>o</sup> die  
Januarie.
1575. Baptizata Gracia filia Thome Hobbes 29 die Augustij.
1576. Baptizatus Georgius filius Thome Hobbes 14 die Decembris.
1581. Matrimoniu' solemnizat inter Thoma' Cowlinge et Justianam  
yea istius parchie decimosexto die Augustij p' dict.
1584. Sepulta Elizabetha uxor Thome Hobbes quinto die Septemeus.
1585. Matrimoniu' solemnizat inter Thome Hobbes istius parchie  
et Johanna Clement de Wellington 20 die mensis Julij.
1590. Baptizata vrsula filia Edward Hobbes tertii die ffebruarij.
1595. Baptizatus apud Stogursey Thomas filius Edwardi Hobbes  
duodecimo die mensis Octobris p' dict.

[N.B. Entries relating to the Hobbes family are to be found in this Register  
down to the year 1688].

1656. The publicacion of marige betweene Valentine Bruer and Joane Alan of Stogumber was the Second day of November and the ninth.

The twenth Seauen day of Nouember valentine bruer of Brompton Ralfe & Joane Alan of Stogumber were Joyned in matrimony.

1660. Baptized John Bruer the sonne of Nathaniell bruer the ninth day of December Borne the 4<sup>th</sup> 1660.

1662. Joane the daughter of Nathaniell and Margreate Brewer was baptised the 14<sup>th</sup> day of Aprill.

1663. Barbara the Daughter of Nathaniel Bruer & Margret his wife was baptised the 24<sup>th</sup> of March.

1665. Nathaniell the sonne of Nathaniell Brewer was borne the 3<sup>th</sup> day of January & Baptized ye 26<sup>th</sup>.

1668. Baptized Tamzen [Thomasine] the daughter off Nathaniell and Margaret Brewer the 11<sup>th</sup> day of May.

1670. Christian ye daughter of Nathaniel Brewer Baptized ye 27<sup>th</sup> of May.

1672. James ye sonne of Nathaniell Brewer baptized June ye 6<sup>th</sup>.

1675. Thomas Brewer was Buried the last day of Aprill.

Barbara Brewer Md was buried the 25<sup>th</sup> day of October.

1681. Sepulta Johanna filia Nathanielis Brewer decimo sexto Junij.

1685. Sepulta Barbara & Thomasina filiæ Nathanielii Brewer Aug. 8.

1714. Baptized John son of Thomas Brewer & Sarah his wife the 28<sup>th</sup> of October.



1716. Baptized Joan daughter of Thomas Brewer & Sarah his wife the 20<sup>th</sup> April.

1720. Mr. David Yea married Mrs. Joan Brewer Jan<sup>y</sup> 19.

## BURIALS.

1707. Feb: ye 20<sup>th</sup> Buried James y<sup>e</sup> son of Nath: Brewer and Margaret his wife.

1710. Margaret Brewer Feb : 16.

1716. Nathaniel Brewer Febr<sup>y</sup> 7<sup>th</sup>.

1723. Nathan<sup>l</sup>. child of Tho<sup>s</sup>. Brewer Oct<sup>r</sup>. the 20<sup>th</sup>.

1729. Nathaniel Brewer Gent. August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Tho. Brewer the 30<sup>th</sup> of Nov<sup>r</sup>.

[N.B. Entries relating to the Brewer family appear in this Register down to the year 1781].

## BAPTISMS.

1721. David son of Mr. David Yea & Joan his wife the 6<sup>th</sup> of December.

1723. Thomas Son of Mr. David Yea & Joan his wife the 19<sup>th</sup> of April.

1724. Mary daughter of Mr. David Yea & Joan his wife the 19<sup>th</sup> of March.

1727. William Son of David Yea Esq. & Joan his wife the 26 of May.

1729. Dorothy daughter of David Yea Esq. & Joan his wife Ap. 9<sup>th</sup>.

1730. Jinny daughter of David Yea Esq. & Joan his wife the 17<sup>th</sup> of Febr<sup>y</sup>.

1733. Betty daught<sup>r</sup>. of David Yea Esq. & Joan his wife the 21<sup>st</sup> of Sept<sup>r</sup>.

1735. Robert son of David Yea Esq. & Joan his wife the 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

8th of June, 1572. Will of John Webber of "Brompton Raffé in the Countie of Som's<sup>t</sup>. yeoman":—"My bodie to be bueried w<sup>th</sup> in the churche of Brompton Raffé"; "towards the repacons of the churche of Brompton Raffé vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>"; "to my sonne in lawe Thomas Hobbes gent. in consideration of the moytie and half deale of the m'she [marshe] w<sup>ch</sup> he should haue had in the daie of his mariage and also in consideracion of fortie pounds of lawfull money of England and of x steares and for all other consideracons sixe score pounds, &c., I geue and bequeathe to Edward Hobbes his sonne of the bodie of my daughter his wief," &c., "which saide some is in the handes of M<sup>r</sup>. Willyam Huddy of Pilsdoun as by the said bill it will appeare" &c., "to David Hobbes the sonne of the said Thomas Hobbes ij steares or els a iiij<sup>li</sup> vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>." Makes bequests "to Thomas Wescombe one of the sonnes of Robarte Wescombe and of my Daughter Katheren his late wief"; "John Wescombe the eldest sonne of the said Robarte Wescombe and Katheren"; "my sonne in law Thomas Hodgs and my daughter in lawe Alice Hodgs"; "my sister Hurley's iiij<sup>or</sup> Daughters vnmarrried"; "Thomas Hurley" [his nephew]; "George Cooke"; "Thomas Thorne"; "my sonne in lawe Adrian Melton" and "John and Christopher his sonnes"; "my brother John Webbers daughters

*viz.* Katheren Alice and Johane"; "Johane the wief of John Gibbes of Halse"; "M'garet Webber my brother's Daughter." Appointed Elizabeth his wife executrix, &c., "my sonne in lawe Thomas Hobbes gent. Richard Lambert John Howell and Robert Wescombe my ou'seers." Witnesses: "Richard Lambert, Clarke, Thomas Hobbes gent., Robert Wescombe, John Vppome, Roger Webber, John Hobbes gent., John Henboroughe, John Vpham the yong<sup>r</sup>." &c. Proved in the Court of the Archdeacon of Taunton, 20th June, 1572.

[Mr. William Huddy, mentioned in this Will was a great-grandson of Sir William Huddy, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, who was the second son of Sir John Huddy or Hody, Lord Chief Justice of England].

"Stoke Courcy" or Stogursey Parish Register.

1655. Mr. David Yawe of Wivilescombe & Mrs. Mary Hobbs of Stogursey Daughter of Mr. Tho. Hobbs of Stogursey had their banes published three lords dayes according to the Act the x<sup>th</sup> of June the xvij<sup>th</sup> and xxiiij<sup>th</sup> day of the same moneth.

Robert Chute Gent. of Combe St. Nicholas & Eliz. Hobbes were marryed the last of October 31.

1656. Mary Yawe Daughter of David Yawe gent. and Mary his wife was borne the xxiiij<sup>th</sup> day of June & baptized the 27<sup>th</sup> day of the same moneth.

1699. John Hobbes Esq<sup>r</sup>. and Mrs. Margaret Gray married at Neither Stowey October 24<sup>th</sup>.

5th October, 1551. Will of David Hobbes of the parish of "Stokegursye in the Countie of Som'st<sup>e</sup> gent." &c.:—"My bodye to be bueried in the Chauncell of Stokegursye farther no bequest made I geue and bequeathe all my goodes moveable and vnmovable w<sup>t</sup> in the realme of England where soeu' they be fownde vnto Mawde my welbeloued wyffe," whom he made sole executrix, "to dispose of pte of my goodes to the comfort of my sowle And to her behouf and her children at her pleasure." Witnesses: "Sr. Richard greble, curatt, Edward Wallier gent., Sr. Richard Cowethe Vicar of Stockland, and Michell Rowke w<sup>t</sup> others." Proved at Bridgwater, "iij April 1559. Valor Juven lxxxvj<sup>li</sup> iij<sup>s</sup> 4<sup>d</sup>."

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### APPENDIX M.

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*"Concerning the warrant about the Caverleares"* [*Cavaliers*].

"Wiviliscomb

in

A returne to the Articles herevnto annex.

Sommerset.

To the first article wee returne Peter Parish for an idle & varuly fellow.

To y<sup>e</sup> second we returne Riche Burge for a drunken & begging idle person Also Emmot Milton Radigond Smith & Grace Allin for Bastardy & Anne Hawkins for a supposed-base childe shee pretending marriage to a man never seene or knowne among vs. Also John Randoll a profesd Papist & a bitter opposer & scoffer

both at our religion & Nation having since his being disarmed revolted from vs. also Tho. Webber for not frequenting divine worship.

To the third wee returne that Mr. Thomas Rabbitt teacheth a few small children & is conceived to live civilly among vs.

To the fourth wee returne these psons following for such as have borne armes for the late king Thomas Edney & Peter his son Thomas Sloocke John Horne John Rendoll formerly mentioned Robert Chaplin Thomas Collard William Davy John Hancocke the younger John Hillin the son of Judith Hillin Thomas Bullery Nathaniel Woolcot Richard Bennison Steeven Bell George Rogers Robert Light John White William Barnestable John Marsh the Weaver Roger Spicer William Miller James Taylor William Eare. We have diligently enquired after their armes & can finde none.

What more shall hereafter at any time come to our knowledge wee shalbee all ready to give a faithfull & true account.

wee returne these following as fit to take masters Grace Burt Elizabeth Sulley Dorothy Rendoll Grace Bullery Grace Lovell, Anne Dab, Winifrid Wormewood Henry Woolcot Elias Chaplin.

Also wee returne William Whitefield & Robert White-field being sturdy youths & one Swanger apprentice to one of the said White-fields fathers for comon-wood-stealers Also we returne Robert Lovell the younger John Holway Christopher Holway for idle psons that live upon the spoile & John Styling & John Robinson for wandring begging & filching psons Also a leud wandring pson known by the name of Susan Brittan.

To the 6<sup>t</sup> wee retorne the signe of the beare in the possession of Robert Edney the signe of the George in the possession of William Piggins the signe of the angell in the possession of Christopher Chilcot the signe of the Lion in the possession of Joane Biffin Widow the signe of the lamb in the possession of Thomas Gunston & the signe of the Bell in the possession of Samuel Stone for Inne houses now in being Also these following for ale houses now in being Phillip Mansells house Thomas Goddards John Uphams Thomas Vphams Thomas Hills Peter Willis William Baynards & William Normans house but whether licenced or noe wee know not.

To the 7<sup>th</sup> wee retorne that noe Bull-baytings Beare-baytings or cocke-matches are knowne to bee amongst vs.

John Wood Minister

David Yea

David Story

ffrancis Hill

The *R H* mark of

Wiviliscombe Aprill 7<sup>th</sup> 1656.

Robert Hancocke

[In the margin]. Our minister whose name is subscribed succeeded his father & hath lived nine or ten yeeres comendably among vs being allowed by the pnt powers & as well for his good & Ch<sup>an</sup> like life as doctrine generally & deservedly owned & respected by vs Also we retorne that."

Endorsed—"Concerning the warrant about the Caverleares."

## APPENDIX N.

*“ffytzhead is a Chapple of Ease.”*

“To all whome it may Concerne.

Wee the Church-wardens & other officers & parishioners of ffytzhead within the Countie of Som'sett doe here freely and of our owne accord Certifie all whome it may any way Concerne that ffytzhead is & hath ever beene a chappell of ease belonging to the Vicaridge of Wiveliscombe and therefore that the reight of it and all the tythes and Church-due growing or arising out of the Vicaridge of the said parish or any wise appertayning to it doe in justice belong to Mr. John Wood now Vicar of Wiveliscombe together w<sup>th</sup> the Chappell of ffytzhead annex a man sufficiently knowne & generally acknowledged for his ability industrie & integritie well deserving the same And wee further certifie that the Tythes of ffytzhead are not a competent maintenance for an able minister & that the Vicar of Wiveliscombe is to this day (as heretofore) rated and charged for the tenthes & other payments for the tithes of ffytzhead and that therefore the Vicar of Wiveliscombe must suffer much by the alienation it being with out president and the small tythes of both; not much considerable for a minister well qualified. And this wee make bold the rather to certifie because our wholl parish hath suffered allready to the value of 40<sup>li</sup> well-nigh for but three yeares alienation vpon any occasion wee shalbe ready to make evidently appeare in testimony of all

and singular the p<sup>r</sup>misses wee doe herevnto put o<sup>r</sup> hands June the thirteenth 1650.

Nathaniell Vpton	William Webber	} Churchwardens.
George Vpton	John Tiler	
John Pringe	Ellis Richars	} Tythingmen.
William Exton	Edward Steevens	
Edward Steevens Sen.	Christopher Halkins	
Phillip Dyer	William Halkings	
Edward Steevens	William Barrell.	

the Carpenter.

This is a true Copy. Witnes our hands Novemb. 19 Anno Dni 1653.

John Wood

David Yea."

Endorsed—"ffytzhead is a Chapple of Ease."

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## APPENDIX O.

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*Will of John Yea of Yea in the Parish of Wiveliscombe,  
Somerset, Yeoman.*

8th January, 1658. "To William Gill my kinsman 3 parcells of land after the decease of Mary my now wife the one of them called Broome partie with such usual ways as are accustomed to the s<sup>d</sup> ground and two other closes the one called Redgraton and the other the Easter Ranscombe for 99 Years if the s<sup>d</sup> W<sup>m</sup>. Gill



and the woeman which shall be his wife and his first child if he fortune to have any shall so long live under the yearly rent of 2<sup>s</sup>.

To William Ward my kinsman 2 parcells of land after the decease of Mary my wife called the Wester Ranscombe with a way out of the Court into Southfield Lane and so by the North hedge of Southfield into the Wester Ranscombe under the yearly rent of 1<sup>s</sup>. for 99 years if he the said W<sup>m</sup>. Ward and the woman which shall be his wife shall so long live.

To Theise my said kinsmen William Gill & William Ward jointly together the Easter Chamber Loft & Butterie next to the North Court with use of the Hall Chimney and going to and from the Hall unto the said Roomes and the North East platt of Garden for term and in manner afsd.

To W<sup>m</sup>. Gill my s<sup>d</sup> kinsman after the decease of my s<sup>d</sup> Wife the bedstead in Entrie Chamber & bed performed.

To Francis Yea my Brother's son £3 to be paid him when he shall be put out an apprentice. To Joseph Yea my brother's son 40<sup>s</sup>. to be paid unto him when he shall be put out an apprentice.

Residue of my Goods &c. to Mary my wife whom I make my sole extrix." Witnesses : Thomas March, Wm. Scully.

Proved in London, 21st May, 1659, by Maria Yea the relict and sole executrix. (*Pell*, 297).

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## APPENDIX P.

*Will of David Yea the elder, of Oakehampton in the Parish of  
Wiveliscombe, Somerset, Gent.*

10th October, 1685. "To my da. Mary Yea £300. To my da. Jane Yea £400. To my da. Eliz<sup>th</sup> Yea £400. To my da. Dorothy Yea £400 when she shall attain to her age of 21 years.

If my now wife M<sup>rs</sup>. Mary Yea shall die within the space of two years next after my death then I give to my three daus. Jane, Elizabeth and Dorothy £100 a piece more.

To the s<sup>d</sup> Mary my now wife the best gilded horse or mare which I shall have at the time of my death and the use of all the rest of household stuffe except such as my sonne David Yea shall have occasion for for his then present use to gratify her my s<sup>d</sup> wife till my s<sup>d</sup> son David Yea shall be intermarried or have occasion to use it himself.

And considering that she my s<sup>d</sup> wife is assured of the greatest part of my estate for her joynture I hope she will preserve my daus. and enlarge their portions as occasions shall offer and that she will give my said sonne his dyett and afford him such house room in this my farm-house as shall be convenient for him until he be provided with a house.

All the rest of my goods & all my lands tenements Estates etc. etc. I give to my said David Yea. And it is my will that if he my said sonne shall happen to die unmarried then all my lands etc.

real and personal which I have bequeathed to him my said sonne shall after his death be equally divided between my said daus. or the survivor or survivors of them.

I make him my said sonne David Yea whole exor.

Edward Hobbs of Stogursey Esq<sup>re</sup>. John Burland of Stogursey gent. Robert Chute of Coombe St<sup>t</sup>. Nicholas gent. overseers and I desire them together with my wife to assist my sd. son and exor. and to take all convenient opportunity to purchase a further estate in this my farm called Oakehampton so that the same may continue to my successors."

Witnesses: Robert Norman, Thomas Russell, Simeon Saunders.

Proved in London, 7th February, 1686, by David Yea, the son and executor. (*Foot*, 35).

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## APPENDIX Q.

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"2 Aprill 13 Charles II. [A.D. 1661]. The Dean and Chapter to David Yea the elder, Gent., for the lives of the said David Yea the elder, David Yea the younger and Mary Yea, son and daughter of the said David Yea."

"1 October 14 Charles II. [A.D. 1662]. The Dean and Chapter of Wells to David Yea, Gent., of Wiveliscombe, for the lives of the said David Yea, Mary his now wife, and Mary Yea his daughter."

Memorandum endorsed on the Deed that seisen had been given in the presence of witnesses, one of whom was Edward Hobbes.

## APPENDIX R.

*Will of Mary Hobbes of Stogursey, &c., Widow.*

11th October, 1668. "To be buried in the Chancell of Stogursey aforesaid as neere the body of my Deere husband Mr. Thomas Hobbs deceased as conveniently it may And as to all those worldly goods," &c. "to the poore people of Stogursey" £10, the profits of which were to be distributed "yearly with Tyllye's money"; "vnto my Sonne Edward Hobbes and his heires All my Lands and Tenements of Inheritance lyeing within the Citty of Bristoll"; "vnto my Daughter Dorothy Burland"\* £50; "vnto my Grandchild Mary Yea the Daughter of David Yea" £150; "to my Daughter Dorothy my Silver Salt with a Topp belonging to it which shee haue now in her custody"; "to my grandchild Thomas Hobbes Six silver spoones"; "vnto Mawde Stodden the wife of John Stodden" 40s.; "vnto Elizabeth Stodden the wife of George" 40s.; "vnto my Grandchild Mary Yea the middle Drawer of Lynninge in the parlor chamber and the other Drawer to my Grandchild Mary Hobbes"; "to my Grandchild Robert Chatte [Chute] one silver Bole"; "to my Grandchild David Yea one siluer bole"; "to all the rest of my Grandchildren that are now liueing one peice of plate apeice to the value of three pounds";

\* The family of Burland had lived at Steyning in the parish of Stogursey as far back as the reign of Edward III., at which time John de Burland was resident there. Of this family was Sir John Burland, Knt., of Steyning, an eminent lawyer, appointed one of the Barons of the Exchequer in the year 1774.

“vnto prudence perry formerly Luttrell the some of Twenty shillinge.” Residue “vnto my said Sonne Edward Hobbes,” whom she appointed her “whole and sole Executor.” “I desire Mr. Richard Meredith, Clarke, and Mr. Robert Chatte [Chute] to bee Assistant to him as Overseers”; “to each of them a Ring to the value of fforty shillings.” Witnesses: William Exon, George Stodden and Elizabeth Stodden. Proved in London (*Coke*, 160).

NOTE.—In the *Visitations of Somerset* in the years 1531 and 1573, recently edited by the Rev. F. W. Weaver, M.A., the pedigree of the Hobbes family commences with David Hobbes, Gent., whose Will has already been quoted in Appendix L.

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## APPENDIX S.

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### *Westerley Account.*

“This yeare the home tenemt. was lett ffor 40 <sup>l</sup> .			
or lady Day 1661. Rec <sup>d</sup> . ffor halfe a yeares Rent due	£	s	d
att or lady day 1661 out of the home tenemt	20	00	00
in Westerley			
Payed & allowed ffor disburstmts	-	02	02 02 ob
Remaynes - - - -	-	17	17 09 ob
Deduct p. Pitt & Meredith -	-	03	00 00
Then there Remaynes to be deuided into			
six pts - - - -	-	14	17 09 ob
Each pt is - - - -	-	02	09 07 ob

Mrch: 1661. This yeare the home tenem<sup>t</sup>. was lett  
for £40.

	£	s	d
o <sup>r</sup> . lady Day 1662. Reced the same yeares Rent	-	40	00 00
Payed & allowed ffor disbursements	-	05	01 02 ob
Remaynes - - - -	-	34	18 10
Deduct ffor Pitt & Meredeth - -	-	03	00 00
Then there Remayneth to be deuided into			
six pts - - - -	-	31	18 10
Each pt is - - - -	-	05	06 05 ob

&c. [The Account is continued in this form to Lady-day, 1668, inclusive].

The Totall Sume is 44 6 9 3 qrs.

A pticular wt<sup>t</sup>. moneys I haue p<sup>d</sup>. Brother Yea

    Synce o<sup>r</sup>. Lady day 1661. li s d

Deliu'ed Syster Yea in Bristoll - -	-	1	6 6
20 feeb. 1676. P <sup>d</sup> . the dancinge Master ffor Mally			
Yea & Jany - -	-	1	0 0
26 Jan. 1671. P <sup>d</sup> . the dancinge Master more for Mall		0	10 0
More p <sup>d</sup> . my Cosen Gray to Jany - -	-	0	5 2
More p <sup>d</sup> . Cosen Gray & y <sup>e</sup> Dyett of Jany fro'			
24 Jan. to y <sup>e</sup> 21 May - - -	-	3	8 0
More p <sup>d</sup> . M <sup>ris</sup> . Wheately p. schoolinge of Mall			
and Jany - - - -	-	0	8 6
More p. thred p. Mall Yea - - -	-	0	1 2

				li	s	d
More p. thred p. Jany	-	-	-	0	6	1
More p. both their Schoolinge	-	-	-	1	11	4
23 June 71. Pd. Cosen Gray p. a payre of drawen boxes				2	7	6
Pd. Cosen Gray p. y <sup>e</sup> Dyett of Mall & Jany						
5 weeks apce	-	-	-	2	0	0
More p <sup>d</sup> . him p. 18 weeks p. Mall Yea	-			3	12	6
July 1673. Pd. Mall Yea to pay p. a payre of Shoes				0	2	6
More p <sup>d</sup> . the dancinge Master p. Mall & Jany				0	10	6
More p <sup>d</sup> . p. mendinge of Janys shoes	-			0	0	8
More p <sup>d</sup> . p. 3 y <sup>ds</sup> . of broadcloth	-	-		1	7	0
More p <sup>d</sup> . to y <sup>e</sup> Dancinge Master p. Mall & Jany				1	10	0
More p <sup>d</sup> . p. ye Dyett of Mall Jany	-			10	0	0
More p <sup>d</sup> . Jo <sup>n</sup> . Ofeild p. bringinge downe y <sup>e</sup>						
Case of boxes	-	-	-	0	4	0
More p <sup>d</sup> . p. 2 payre of shoes p. yo <sup>r</sup> . selfe	-			0	9	0
16 Jun. 1673. Pd. Brother Yea more at Brompton	-			15	0	0
More due w <sup>ch</sup> . I layd out for a Silk p. a gowne				4	0	0
				<hr/>		
				49	6	9
				<hr/>		
Disbursed	-	-	49 6 9	i		
Rec <sup>d</sup> . as on thother syde	-		44 6 9		3 q <sup>r</sup> .	
Soe Rem'	-		04 19 11		1 q <sup>r</sup> . in to more.	

E.H.

## APPENDIX T.

*Notes on the Lacy family.*

William Lacey=Joan Brinsmeade, Relict of Sweeting.

Will of William Lacey, the elder, of Hartrow, Stogumber, Somerset, Gent. Feb. 15, 45 Elizab. "To be buried at Stogumber near my wife. My eldest son, William Lacey, and Margaret his wife [she was a daughter of Richard Bampfield of Poltimore]. My Lease in the Chauntry of Newton Placey, North Petherton, to William Lacey my eldest son. George Lacey and John Lacey and Thomas Lacey, sons of my eldest son. My daughters Julyan and Ursula. My son-in-law William Rawles and my son-in-law John Sweeting." Proved Dec. 31, 1607. (*Hudleston*, 92).

Will of John Sweeting of Thorncombe, Bicknoller, Somerset. Proved June 23, 1628. (*Barrington*, 55).

Will of John Sweeting of Bicknoller, Somerset, Gent. March 16, 164 $\frac{1}{2}$ . "To my daughter Elizabeth £300, to my grandchild William Coggan 20s. at 21, the same to Jone Dickes. Residue to my son John Sweeting, executor. James Cade of Halsway in Stogumber, and my cosin Hugh Rich of Sampford Brett, overseers. Proved by John Sweeting, son, November 29, 1647. (*Fines*, 239).

Will of Mr. Edmund Lacie of Shipham, Somerset, buried at St. Cuthbert's, Wells, May 2, 1613. His will not proved till May 12, 1630. (*Scroope*, 43).



Will of Elizabeth Lacie of Axbridge, widow. Nov. 26, 1638.  
“My son-in-law Mr Parker, my son-in-law Mr Edmund Lacie, my  
ds Catherine and Orian Lacie.” Proved May 29, 1639.

Will of Maria Lacey of London, Gentlewoman. Dec. 24, 1641.  
“My Brother Henry Broadripp of Freshford, Somerset, Clothier ;  
my Br William Broadripp ; my Brother Edmond Lacey ; my  
Brother John Parker ; my cousin Eleanor Crosse ; my Aunt Lacey.”  
Proved Jan. 27, 164 $\frac{1}{2}$ . (*Campbell*, 3).

Will of George Lacey of Stogumber, Somerset, Gent. July 24,  
1691. “My mother Sarah Lacey, my brother Arthur Lacey ; to my  
sisters, Ann, Elizabeth and Dorothy, gold rings ; my cousin Sarah  
Lacy, &c. Residue to my wife Mary Lacey, executrix.” Proved  
Sept. 25, 1691. (*Vere*, 144).

Elizabeth Lacey=Edward Langdon.

Dorothy Lacey=David Yea.

Arthur Lacey of Hartrow, in Stogumber, Somerset, deceased.  
Administration, Nov. 26, 1729, to Isabella Lacey, Relict.

Will of Sarah Lacey of Hartrow, in Stogumber, Somerset, widow  
of William Lacey, Esq., Jan. 9, 1698. Buried there. “My son-in-  
law Edward Langdon, Gent.; his children, Edward and Sarah  
Langdon ; my daughter, Elizabeth Langdon ; my grandchild,  
David Yea ; his mother, my daughter, Dorothy Yea ; my nephew,  
Desborough Copleston ; Mary, wife of George Doble of Crocombe ;  
the Poor of Upton Pyne ; John Jenkins of Willet and Margaret his

wife ; my son, Arthur Lacey, executor." Proved by Arthur Lacey, June 17, 1702. (*Herne*, 99).

Will of Mercy Hole of Upton Pyne, Devon, widow. Oct. 24, 1664. "My son-in-law, William Lacey of Hartrow, Esq." Many Copplestons named. Proved Feb. 23, 167<sup>6</sup>. (*Hale*, 18).

Will of Thomas Rich of Hartrow, Stogumber, Somerset, Esq<sup>re</sup>. Ap. 14, 1715. Buried there. "To my mother-in-law, M<sup>rs</sup>. Susannah Lacey, widow, £100 ; my son, Thomas Rich ; to M<sup>rs</sup>. Sarah Periam of Milverton, my gold watch, &c.; my nephew, Robert Williams *alias* Stone, &c. Trustees, Sir John Trevelyan and others." Proved Aug. 30, 1716. (*Fox*, 165).

Susannah Lacey was a daughter of Robert Hunt, Esq., of Speckington, Somerset, and widow of William Lacey, Esq., of Hartrow, who was High Sheriff for Somerset in 1692. Robert Hunt, in his will proved June 30, 1680, leaves "£20 to my son Lacy." (*Bath*, 80).

Will of Alice Howe of Tolland, Somerset. 1st October, 1565. "To be buried in the Churchyard of Tolland," "to the Cathedrall church of St. Andrewe in Welles" 4<sup>d</sup>. "to the pishe church of Stokegumber" 12<sup>d</sup>. "to the pore people of the same pishe of Stokegumber" x<sup>s</sup>. "to the pore people of Tanton" 10<sup>s</sup>. "Itm. to John Swetinge, M<sup>r</sup>. lacies Sonne in Lawe vj<sup>s</sup>. viij<sup>d</sup>. Itm. to M<sup>r</sup>. lacies iiij<sup>or</sup>. maidens to eu'ie of them a xij<sup>d</sup>. Itm. to Jone Lovell one of m<sup>r</sup>. lacies said maidens all my wearinge apparell and raymente for her paines that she toke for me on my Sicknes," &c. "Witnesses

att the doinge hereof William Lacie gent. Thomas Woolecote\* and Thomas Venne." Proved in the same year in the Archdeacon's Court at Taunton.

The following extracts from a Bill of Complaint of William Lacy, Gent., of Hartrow, against George Sydenham, Esq., and others, is to be found in the Court of Requests—21 Elizabeth [1578], Bundle 2, No. 326:—Depositions taken at Stogumber, Somerset, September 23, 21 Elizabeth, before Hugh Smythe, John Colles, and Andrew Hemerford, Esq<sup>res</sup>. and John Peny, Gent.

"Johane Lacie, the wyff of William Lacie the Complainant one aged 42 years and upwards," and "sayth that her Husband came runnyng into his house and declared unto her that Willyam Doble one of the Defendants had stroken hym uppon the arme with a welsh hoke wherewith his arme was blake, and her husband had but a walking staffe," &c. Then follows a long account "that about fflower yeres past or more, Willyam Doble came unto her as she was with her fowkkes a weedinge of otes in her groundes," and told her "that his Master George Sydenham willed hym to fyght with her Husband and to kill or to mayme hym," &c. John Chilcott of Stogumber, Clothier, aged 46, deposed "that for anye contencion between the Plaintiff & Mr. George Sydenham & Roger

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\* From Henry Wolcott of Tolland, who emigrated to Connecticut in the year 1628, is descended the leading American family of Wolcott, of which The Honble. Oliver Wolcott, Governor of Connecticut in the year 1796, and one of the signatories to the Declaration of American Independence in the year 1776, was a member.

Sydenham he knoweth none, but that Mr. George Sydenham hath dealthe agaynst the Complainant for inclosing of Commons, stoppage of highways & other annoyances that Will Lacy hath done to neighbours," &c. Then follow depositions by Richard Mallett of St. Audries, Esq., aged 35; Johane Dodington of Stogumber, aged 61; George Carew, aged 31; and John Stawell, Knt., aged 42.

*Coles' Escheats—from Wards & Liveries.*

Somt.—Inq. p. m. at Chard. 31 March 7 Ch. [1631].

William Lacey Esqr.

=Margaret

|

Thomas Lacey, Gent.

=Elizabeth,

died in his Father's life time,

June 19, 1628,

|

William Lacey, aged 2 months.

Manors of Hartrow, Elworthy, Donniford, Winford Rivers,  
Winford Boseny, Brompton Ralf, Kingston Seymour, Somerset.

Manor of Upton, Gloucestershire.

Manor of Sturminster Marshall, Dorset.

[With the exception of the Will of Alice Howe, the whole of these Notes on the Lacy family have been kindly furnished by the Rev. Frederick Brown, M.A., F.S.A., of Beckenham, Kent; and they will, taken together, serve to rectify any errors which may appear in pages 50, 51, 52, 53 and 54 of this History].

APPENDIX U.

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*Will of Mary Yea of Wiveliscombe, Somerset, Widow.*

5th November, 1723. "Unto my son David Yea Gent. and Dorothy his wife and to each of them a mourning ring of the value of one guinea of gold each," "unto my Daughter Mrs. Mary Granger Wid<sup>o</sup>." £100, "to my granddaughter Mrs. Mary Haviland wife of Matthew Haviland Gent." £50, "and to William Haviland and Mary Haviland son and daughter of the said Matthew Haviland" £100 apiece, "to Petronell Gold my servant maid if she be living with me at the time of my decease & not otherwise" 40s., "unto my Daughter Mrs. Dorothy Chute wid." £1000 upon trust to "pay the same One Thousand Pounds unto my granddaughter and her daughter Dorothy Chute" at 21 years of age or upon marriage, "unto my grandson Mr. David Yea five Pounds." Residue "unto my said daughter Dorothy Chute whom I make and appoint sole Executrix of this my last Will & Testament." Witnesses: Fra<sup>s</sup>. Collins, Mary Washer, John Baker. Proved in the Court of the Prebendary of Wiveliscombe in the month of September, 1724.

1747, August 19th. Administration *de bonis non* of the personal estate and effects of Mary Yea of Wiveliscombe, widow, deceased, granted to Francis Collins of Wiveliscombe, Gent.

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APPENDIX V.

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*Will of David Yea of Wiveliscombe, Somerset, Esquire.*

6th July, 1730. "To Matthew Haviland of Wellesford Parish of Langford Budville s<sup>d</sup> Co. gentleman and John Webber of Badialton sd. County Gentleman all my messuages farms lands etc. situate within the several Counties of Somerset Devon and Dorset to the uses hereinafter mentioned namely to the uses of my eldest son David Yea and to his male heirs for ever and for want of such issue male to proceed from the body of my said son David Yea then as concerning all my lands etc. etc. being in the Parish of Brompton Ralph Co. Somerset to the use of Thomas Yea my second son and his heirs male for ever and for want of such issue to proceed from the body of my said son Thomas Yea .

Then as well for my lands etc. in Brompton Ralph after the decease of my s<sup>d</sup> sons David Yea & Thomas Yea without issue male as also for the fee and inheritance of all other my lands etc. from my own decease and the decease of my said son David Yea with issue male of his body to the use and behoof of William Yea my third son and his heire male for ever and in default of such issue to the use of the 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> and every other son and sons by me begotten and their heirs male according to seniority of age and priority of birth for want of such issue male then to the use of all and every the da. and daus. by me begotten and their heirs for ever for want of such issue then to the use of my right heirs.

To my honored Dorothy Yea widow £100. To my Aunts, Mary Granger Widow and Dorothy Collins £5 to each of them. Residue of my goods to my s<sup>d</sup> Mother and the said Matthew Haviland and John Webber upon the trusts and for the uses hereinafter mentioned. To my said son W<sup>m</sup>. Yea £6000 when he shall attain to the age of 21 years. To my da. Mary Yea £3000 at the age of 21 years. To my da. Dorothy Yea £3000 at 21 years of age and to every [younger] child or children which shall be born and living at the time of my decease or afterwards born, son or da. £3000 when they shall attain the age of 21 years.

The said Dorothy Yea my Mother Matthew Haviland & John Webber exors. in trust.

My body to be interred in a decent and handsome manner in the churchyard of Wiveliscombe as near my late dec<sup>d</sup> father as possible."

Witnesses : Francis Collins, Humphrey Hancock, John Crudge.

13th Dec. 1751. "Admon. with will annexed of the Goods etc. of David Yea late of Wiveliscomb County Somerset Esquire dec. granted to William Yea son and principal legatee named in s<sup>d</sup> will Dorothy Yea Widow, the Mother, Matthew Haviland & John Webber the exors. dying in the testators life time and David Yea the eldest son of the s<sup>d</sup> dec<sup>d</sup> and residuary legatee first renouncing."

Proved in London. (*Busby*, 347).

30 June, 1730. "Admon. to David Yea late of Wiveliscomb Co. Somerset granted to David Yea son of the dec<sup>d</sup> Dorothea Yea Widow and relict having renounced.

Admon. of Goods unadministered passed in London, Dec. 1751."

1751, 14 Dec. "Admon. to David Yea late of Wiveliscombe Co, Somerset Esquire dec<sup>d</sup> left unadministered by David Yea dec<sup>d</sup> (whilst living) the son & only child of the s<sup>d</sup> dec<sup>d</sup> granted to William Yea the son, and Admon. with Will annexed of the s<sup>d</sup> David Yea dec<sup>d</sup> Dorothy Yea, Widow the relict formerly renouncing.

Former Grant in June 1730."

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## APPENDIX W,

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*Extract from the Parish Register of Taunton St. James.*

"The following Births and Baptisms are inserted at the Request of Sr. William Yea Bar<sup>t</sup>. and John Trevelyan Esq.

William Walter Son of Sr. William Yea Bar<sup>t</sup>. and Julia Lady Yea his wife was born Oct. 8, 1756 at Oakehampton in the parish of Wiveliscombe and baptized June 22, 1757.

Lacy Son of the said Sir William and Lady Yea was born Jan. 21, 1759 at Pyrland in the parish of St. James in Taunton and baptized June 24, 1759, at Wasing in Berkshire.

George Son of the said Sr. William and Lady Yea was born Apr. 1, 1760 at Pyrland aforesaid and baptized Apr. 29, 1760.

Thomas Frere Son of the said Sir William and Lady Yea was born May 12, 1766 at Pyrland aforesaid and baptized June 20, 1766.

Louisa Daughter of John Trevelyan Esq. and Louisa his wife was baptised at Wasing in the County of Berks June 19, 1759."



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APPENDIX X.

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*Mural tablet on the wall of the North aisle of the Parish  
Church of Wiveliscombe, Somerset.*

IN MEMORY OF  
SIR WILLIAM YEA  
OF PYRLAND HOUSE, SOMERSETSHIRE, BART.  
WHO DIED THE 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 1806,  
AGED 79 YEARS.

AND OF  
LACY YEA ESQ<sup>RE</sup>.  
OF OAKHAMPTON HOUSE IN THIS PARISH,  
HIS SON,  
WHO DIED THE 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 1811,  
AGED 52 YEARS.

“VERILY THERE IS A REWARD FOR THE RIGHTEOUS,  
VERILY THERE IS A GOD.”  

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AND OF  
GEORGE YEA ESQ<sup>RE</sup>.  
OF THIS PARISH,  
SON OF SIR WILLIAM YEA,  
WHO DIED 2<sup>ND</sup> OCT<sup>R</sup>. 1811,  
AGED 51 YEARS.

*Coat of Arms:—*YEA quartering BREWER and LACY.

[N.B. A brass Memorial belonging to the Yea family was taken away at the rebuilding of the Church, and not replaced].

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*Mural Tablet within the Chancel of the Parish Church of  
Taunton St. James.*

*Arms :—*YEA quartering BREWER.

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IN THE VAULT BENEATH RESTS THE BODY OF  
WILLIAM WALTER YEA Esquire,  
ELDEST SON AND HEIR OF  
SR. WILLIAM YEA, BARONET,  
OF PYRLAND HOUSE IN THIS PARISH.

THIS MONUMENT IS ERECTED  
BY HIS MOST AFFECTIONATE WIFE  
JANE, DAUGHTER AND COHEIRESS  
OF FRANCIS NEWMAN ESQUIRE  
OF CADBURY HOUSE, THIS COUNTY,  
AS A TRIBUTE OF TRUE LOVE AND RESPECT  
TO THE MEMORY OF

THE BEST OF HUSBANDS AND BEST OF FATHERS.

HE DIED 27<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 1804,  
AGED 48.

IN THE SAME VAULT ARE DEPOSITED THE REMAINS  
OF THE ABOVE NAMED JANE,  
WHO DIED THE 31<sup>ST</sup> OF JANUARY, 1829,  
AGED 72.

*Inscription on the Monument affixed to the wall of the North aisle of the  
Parish Church of Taunton St. James.*

*Arms :—*YEA quartering LACY.

ALMA.  
INKERMANN.

IN MEMORY OF  
COLONEL LACY WALTER GILES YEA,  
LIEUT.-COLONEL OF THE 7<sup>TH</sup> ROYAL FUSILIERS. AGED 47.  
ELDEST SON OF SIR WILLIAM WALTER YEA, BART.  
OF PYRLAND HALL IN THIS COUNTY.  
HE WAS KILLED ON THE 18<sup>TH</sup> OF JUNE, 1855,  
AT THE HEAD OF HIS REGIMENT,  
WHILE LEADING THE ASSAULTING DIVISION,  
WHICH HE COMMANDED WITH DAUNTLESS INTREPIDITY,  
IN THE DESPERATE ATTACK ON THE REDAN  
DURING THE SIEGE OF SEVASTOPOL.

AFTER NEARLY 30 YEARS SERVICE,  
ON THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE WAR WITH RUSSIA  
UP TO THE MOMENT OF HIS HEROIC DEATH  
HE LOST NONE OF THE MANY OPPORTUNITIES OF DISTINCTION  
OFFERED ON THE BATTLE FIELDS  
OF ALMA AND INKERMANN

AND BY THE ARDUOUS DUTIES OF THE TRENCHES,  
EXERTIONS HONOURABLY RECOGNIZED IN THE DESPATCHES  
OF FIELD MARSHAL LORD RAGLAN.

HE WAS NO LESS CONSPICUOUS THROUGHOUT  
THE SEVERITY OF THIS MEMORABLE CAMPAIGN

FOR THE PARENTAL ATTENTION WHICH

HE SUCCESSFULLY BESTOWED

ON THE CONDITION OF HIS REGIMENT,

A SOLICITUDE REQUESTED BY

THEIR MOST DEVOTED RESPECT AND AFFECTION.

HE WAS BURIED IN THE CRIMEA  
IN THE PRESENCE OF THE BRIGADE HE COMMANDED.

THIS MONUMENT IS ERECTED BY  
HIS ELDEST SISTER.

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*Lower down on the same wall:—*

SACRED

TO THE MEMORY OF  
ANN HECKSTETTER, WIFE OF  
SIR WILLIAM WALTER YEA, BART.,  
OF PYRLAND HALL IN THIS COUNTY,  
AND DAUGHTER OF COL<sup>L</sup>. DAVID MICHEL  
OF DULISH HOUSE IN THE COUNTY OF DORSET,  
DIED SEPTEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>, 1846.

ALSO OF DAVID RALEIGH YEA, BURIED  
DECEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>, 1813, AGED 4 YEARS.

AND OF WILLIAM WALTER YEA, AN INFANT,  
BURIED APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup>, 1814.

AND OF RALEIGH HENRY YEA, AGED 37,  
ACCIDENTALLY SHOT BY HIS OWN GUN,  
FEBRUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>, 1855, SONS OF THE ABOVE.

ALL THESE LIE BURIED IN THE MICHEL  
FAMILY VAULT IN THE PARISH CHURCH OF  
LONGBREDY IN THE COUNTY OF DORSET.

THIS TABLET IS ERECTED IN AFFECTIONATE  
MEMORY BY HER DAUGHTERS, HER ONLY  
SURVIVING CHILDREN.

*On the East wall of the South aisle of the Parish Church of Taunton  
St. James is the following Memorial:—*

Crest:—*A talbot passant* AR.

1. YEA.—*VERT a ram pass.* AR. Quartering:—
2. LACY.—*Two bars wavy* ERM.
3. NEWMAN (of Cadbury, Somerset).—*Quarterly SABLE and ARGENT in the first and fourth quarters, three mallets of the second (in the centre an inescutcheon GULES charged with a portcullis imperially crowned* OR, an augmentation of arms granted by Charles II. to Col. Newman for his gallantry at the battle of Worcester).
4. BREWER.—*GU. two bends wavy* OR, a chief *vairé*.

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF  
SIR WILLIAM WALTER YEA, BARONET,  
OF PYRLAND HALL IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET,  
ELDEST SON OF WILLIAM WALTER YEA, ESQUIRE  
(ELDEST SON OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> BARONET)  
BY JANE, DAUGHTER AND CO-HEIR  
OF FRANCIS NEWMAN, ESQ<sup>RE</sup>.  
OF CADBURY HOUSE, SOMERSET.

HE SUCCEEDED HIS GRANDFATHER AS 2<sup>ND</sup>  
BARONET IN 1806, AND  
MARRIED IN JUNE, 1806, ANNE, YOUNGEST DAUGHTER OF  
COL. DAVID ROBERT MICHEL, OF DULISH, DORSET.  
BORN APRIL 19<sup>TH</sup>, 1784, AND DIED MAY 20<sup>TH</sup>, 1862.

THIS MONUMENT  
IS ERECTED BY HIS ONLY SURVIVING CHILDREN,  
ELEANORA YEA, CHARLOTTE DERING,  
AND JULIA THOMPSON.

## APPENDIX Y.

*Extracts from the Valuation of the late Mrs. Yea's Estates in Brompton Ralph, North Cadbury, and Sparkford, Somerset, taken on the 26th of March, 1829 :—*

	ACRES.
“ Lower and Middle Stone in the parish of Brompton Ralph, rented by Thomas Langdon - -	95 $\frac{3}{4}$
Part of Higher Stone and Poole Hill in Brompton Ralph, rented by David Burston - - - -	137 $\frac{1}{4}$
Part of Higher Stone not connected with the other part of the Estate - - - - -	19 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pool Mill, occupied by George Wensley - -	3 $\frac{1}{4}$
Occupied by J. Winter - - - - -	$\frac{3}{4}$
Patcombe in Brompton Ralph, held by Mr. Robert Winter for his own life (supposed age about 66), with a right of Common on Brendon Hill - - - -	32 $\frac{1}{2}$
Moor Mill in Brompton Ralph, occupied by James Hughs	74 $\frac{1}{4}$
North Leaze Estate in the parishes of North Cadbury and Sparkford, Somerset, rented by Caleb Loader -	123 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sparkford Parish - - - - -	67

General Remarks. 553 $\frac{3}{4}$

The Timber on the Brompton Ralph property I have not valued, but from the view taken when on the Estates I am enabled to say it is of considerable worth. The Timber on North Leaze should not be sold before the Estate is disposed of as it is now an ornament, and will show that the land is not really so bad as it now appears, from neglect and bad farming. The Estate is in a good country, being 3 miles from Castle Cary, and 7 from Wincanton & Ilchester.

Taunton, March 26, 1829.

(Signed) John Easton.”

## APPENDIX Z.

*“Star Chamber Proceedings. 19 May, 33 Elizabeth.*

James Cappes *v.* David Yea.

In Michaelmas Term 31 & 32 Elizabeth, James Cappes, of Jewes, Somerset, Esq<sup>r</sup>. your orator, exhibited a Bill of Complaint in this Court ag<sup>st</sup> David Yea of Wyveliscombe, Som<sup>t</sup>. yeoman, John Yea and Xtopher [Christopher] Hoyll of Wyveliscombe & others for dyvers vearye notable & owtragious ryotts & other misdemeanours by them before that tyme comitted & done.

To the which the confederates did make answeare in & about 11 Feb. 32 Elizab., and Xtopher Hoyll beinge then sworn in this Courte, that his said answeare was trewe, he did in his saide answeare wylfullye & manifestlye periure & forswear himself—for that whereas your orator, in his Bill of Complaint, did among other things complaine of a riotous assaulte made by certen of the Defendants upon on John Slocombe his servaunte, & of a greate hurte and wound then given to John Slocombe in his hedd & face by Jozyns Holcombe, one of the Defendants--the said Xtopher Hoyll did make his answeare upon his othe, as followeth or to the like effect—that is to saye ‘that the said Jozyns Holcombe, with the wronge ende of a certen dagger gave Slocombe a small towche in the face, and a littell scratched him, as yt weare, with the scratchinge of a Bremell’ [bramble], which the said Hoyll in that manner most falselye sett down in his said answeare to thintente

to excuse the offence of Holcombe & of himself & other his confederates.

Whereas in vearie dede, Xtopher Hoyll did veiwe & see the said wownde & hurte, and did playnelye perceiue & knowe the same to be a vearye greate wownde & hurte in such dangerous sorte as aforesaid, whereby the said Hoyll in his said answer in this Courte did moste wittinglye & wyfullye periure & forswear himself, without regarde of his dewtye towards God & in contempte of your M<sup>s</sup> lawes & beinge thereunto att that tyme directlye suborned by David Yea & John Yea.

Since that time the said cause hath proceeded to a Com<sup>n</sup> for Examination of Witnesses, directed to Gabriel Hawley Esq<sup>re</sup>, William Lacye, Nicholas Strete & John Worth, Gents, & was by order of Courte appointed to be sitten upon & executed at Wiveliscombe upon the fyefthe daye of Januarye last paste—at which daye the said Commissioners made their repaire to Wyveliscombe and did examine divers witnesses of booth partes, & contynewed the said examination from about nyne of the clock in the forenoon untill abowte eighte of the clock att night of the same day, and a vearye dilligente and carefull manner for the despatch of the witnesses, for case of the charge of either parties.

Att which tyme David Yea intending to interrupte & so to disturbe the said Com<sup>rs</sup> as they should not be able to procede to any further examination of witnesses, well knowinge that the dew ex<sup>n</sup> thereof would depely towche him—he then came into the



chamber where the said Com<sup>rs</sup> did sitt, & objected divers matters of untrowthe against a witness of your subjecte &c.—& thereupon the said David Yea in most contemptuous & owtrageous manner, presentlye grewe into vearye badd & unseemelye speeches & contemptuous behavyour, in disturbance of the said Com<sup>rs</sup>, sayinge that your subjecte did lye, and called him ‘knave’ several tymes, your subjecte beinge a Gentleman of ancyente discente, and of lyvyng answearable to his calling, & the said David Yea, att the beggininge but a Husbandman and a daye laborer in husbandrye for any man that would hyer hym to doe work, but had by happ a certen farme in come unto him for terme of his lief onelye, the which he publisheth hee will whollye spende but that he will have his purpose against your said subjecte,” &c.

A new Com<sup>n</sup> was issued. David Yea was more violent and would have drawn his dagger upon your subject, yf he had not been staid by Mr. Lacye & Mr. Strete—&c.—& David Yea did then affirm, that ‘your subjecte did then challenge David Yea into the feeld, sayinge, that yf he durste to goe with him into the feeld he would then end all matters of controversye there with him the said David Yea,’ &c., and thereupon the Com<sup>rs</sup> seeing the outrage of your subjecte to be so greate, & not to be tollerated, did put him forth of the chamber willing the said David Yea to staie with them, & after some conference hadd with him, they willed him likewise yf he were not affraide to departe into the next chamber to thende they might consider farther of the matter, & that then

y<sup>r</sup> subjecte perceiving David Yea to come into the chamber, he did then not onely utter vearye hard & lewde speeches ag<sup>st</sup> the said Yea, but did likewyse eftsoons offer to draw his dagger upon the said Yea, & would have done it 'had hee not been staid by the people that stood bye,' 'and so the Com<sup>rs</sup> did depart without executing the Com<sup>n</sup>.'

Whereas in very truth your subject did not use such words or challenge David Yea, as is deposed. But the Com<sup>rs</sup> believing in David Yea's deposition have committed your subject to the Fleet," &c.

Subpœna asked for.

There are several long answers to the Complaint, and the following extract from David Yea's answer does him much credit:—

"David Yea denies any outrageous behavvour, &c.

He objected to a witness John Woolcott before the Com<sup>rs</sup> because he was a lewd person & of small credite, and had been indyted dyvers tymes of Felony & had suffered paynes of death yf he had not had the benefitt of his Clergie.

Whereupon James Cappes did revyle him and used wordes of such disgrace, dispyte & contempte as were far unmeete for the place & not decent for any man in any place—and amongst others James Cappes called 'knave,' as he David Yea once called him.

David Yea is contented with his callinge and had rather be the first Gentleman of his kyndred than the last, and an honest quyet

subject than an unquyet troublesome gentleman—and yet yf that were to the purpose, he thinketh that many a husbandman and daye labourer hath bene better discended, and that without disgrace of gentrey than the Plaintiff, though ‘his lyvyng be answeareable to his discent,’ with which he ought rather to be contented than to make such greate bragges thereof.”

NOTE.—James Cappes, the Plaintiff, or rather Orator, in this suit, who is described in the *Herald's Visitation of the County of Somersset in the year 1623* as living in Wales, married the daughter of William Lancaster, Esq., of Milverton, Somersset,—another daughter married Roger Sydenham, Esq., of Skilgate, Somersset,—whose eldest son, John, married Miss Dorothy Carew of Crowcombe in the same county; so that Mr. David Yea overthrew a formidable opponent. The allegation set forth by the Orator to the effect that Mr. Yea had by chance become possessed of a certain farm, bears out in a remarkable manner the contingency referred to in the Will of Richard Yea, dated the 25th of July, 1548, at which time Mr. David Yea and his brother John were children, viz.: “I will that my executors do delu’ unto David yae or to John yae when they or anie of them shall chance to enter into the farme of Okehampton, all my plowghe stuff,” &c. The Court of the Star Chamber, in which this suit was instituted, had, Blackstone informs us, jurisdiction “over riots, perjury, misbehaviour of Sheriffs, and other notorious misdemeanours contrary to the law.” It afterwards became stretched in such a manner as to become a tribunal of gross oppression, and “was finally abolished by statute 16 Charles I., c. 10, to the general joy of the whole nation.”

## CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS.

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Page 31, line 11, after the word "Bull-baytings" add the word "Beare-baytings."

Page 44, in the last line, for "an eminent" read "the eminent."

Page 66, line 12, for "descent" read "decent."

Page 105, lines 18 and 19, for "and which work" read "and a work which."

Page 113, line 19, for "aclivity" read "acclivity."

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INDIANA

